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Near East/South Asia Report

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19 MAY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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PAPER CRITICIZES CHIRAC'S 'PRO-TURKISH' STANCE

Paris GAMK in Armenian/French 6 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Turkey has discovered a new friend in Europe. Regretfully he is the Premier Chirac.

While traditional friends hesitate to promote officially the Turkish demand to form part of the European Community, Premier Chirac has already informed the minister of foreign affairs of Turkey that the French Government will not stand in the way of Turkish membership. The haste of the Premier of France is so obvious that the Western press has brought its searchlights to bear on the growing ties of friendship between Chirac and Turkish Premier Ozal.

Even European papers that have pro-Turkish sentiments have been obliged to draw Premier Chirac's attention to the fact that it was premature to examine in depth Turkey's application for membership and to come to a decision.

That is why the Armenian people is fully justified in calling Premier Chirac to account on the occasion of his about-face in favor of the Turkish state.

It is perhaps not so important for the French Premier that the Turkish State persists in its policy of violating human rights and ignoring democratic freedoms.

Apparently, Jacques Chirac also shares the Turkish view that there is not the slightest difference between the Atlantic Pact and the European Common Market. In other words, if the Turks are reliable as partners in the pact, they must also be acceptable as members of the market...

But the French people, so sensitive with respect to freedom and the defense of rights, cannot accept that this premier should become the champion of the policy of rapprochement with the Turkish police. After all, France is that country which, in the name of values embodied by the European Community, has adopted, especially in the past decade, a consistent policy against both the leaders of Ankara for their domestic repression and against the crimes committed by the Turkish state with regard to the

Cypriot Greeks, the Kurds, and the Armenians. In fact, until the premiership of Jacques Chirac, France had taken the lead of those forces of the European Community which both in the European Parliament and the Common Market had made justice prevail against all Turkish encroachments.

We must underline the fact that this line of conduct has been the historic policy of France. It is true that the policy of the Socialist authority of President Mitterand in this sense is very clear, but we cannot also ignore the fact that the roots of this eminently French policy extend as far back as Jaures and Clemenceau, passing by the presidencies of Giscard and De Gaulle.

Premier Chirac is simply keeping away from this true path of French policy when, with desperate and unjustifiable alacrity he extends a hand of cooperation to Turkish fascism tainted with the blood of freedom-loving nations and even Turks.

12364/9190
CSO: 4605/16

TURKISH SOURCES ON ASALA ACTIVITIES

Ankara Suspicious of France-ASALA Ties

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 20 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] Lately rumors have been circulating in government circles in Ankara that an agreement is again being prepared between the Armenian terroristic organization ASALA (Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia) in order to put an end to all terroristic actions taking place in Paris.

It is said that this situation can strain the Turkish-French relations that appeared to be improving in recent days.

The suspicion is growing in Ankara that the government of Chirac, like the socialist authorities in France, is moving toward an agreement with ASALA, as evidenced by the following facts:

1. The summer months saw the start of a significant number of bombings and terroristic activities in Paris. The terrorists were demanding the release of two arrested men, one of whom was George Ibrahim Abdallah and the other Varoujan Garbissian, presumed responsible for the Orly incident.

ASALA and the Organizations for the Defense of Middle Eastern Political Prisoners were trying together to exert pressure on the Chirac government.

2. After continuing for some time, the incidents suddenly stopped and ASALA announced in Beirut, in September, that it was coming to an agreement with France. This announcement by ASALA was immediately denied by the French premier, but since that date certain interesting developments became noticeable in the European Parliament.

3. In June of 1986, before the Paris incident, the Political Commission of the European Parliament had rejected the Armenian report prepared by the Belgian parliamentarian Vandemeulebroucke which wanted the political recognition of the Armenian genocide.

The rejection by the commission was based on the fact that being a political body of the parliament, the commission was not entitled to take decisions on a historical issue.

But a faulty execution of the bylaws of the commission served as a justification for placing the report on the agenda again. During this time, the Armenians, of course, set to work again to reactivate the Armenian project.

ASALA'S Future Plans

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 22 Jan 87 p 1

[Text] Ahmed Shenova, the Athens correspondent of TERCUMAN writes: On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of its founding, the Armenian terroristic organization ASALA has published a communique in Athens newspapers saying that it plans to intensify its activities against Turkey.

In its communique addressed to Armenians dispersed all over the world, it portrays the Turks and Turkey as the "usurpers of imaginary Armenian lands."

Together with this communique of the Armenian terrorist organization a picture was circulated showing armed and masked Armenian terrorists in a training camp without any indication as to its location. This picture has been published in Greek newspapers. In its communique, ASALA gives no information about the targets in Turkey.

The support provided to the terrorists by Greece was placed on the agenda of the General Assembly of the Council of Europe by German Deputy Rudolph Wedekind.

Christian Democrat Wedekind, answering questions by Leo Tindemans, says that Greece is openly supporting the Armenian terroristic organization ASALA and a clear proof of that is the encouragement Greece gave during the "Support the Armenians" Congress held in Athens on 20 April 1986." It should be noted also that Greek deputies turn a blind eye on such events, in line with the government at Athens," remarked the West German deputy, adding that this course of action by the Greek Government contradicted prior decisions regarding terrorism taken by the Council of Europe.

At ASALA Center

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 23 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] HURRIET in cooperation with a French expert on terrorism employed by the world's largest photographic agency, Sigma, has succeeded in entering ASALA's camp in Beirut where criminals are trained.

The newspaper publishes pictures taken in the camp, in one of which can be seen one of the leaders of ASALA, Vicken Charkoudian, right-hand man of Hagop

Hagopian, as he gave the victory sign. Another picture shows the mask worn by criminal recruits of ASALA with the map of an imaginary Armenia in its front.

ASALA Cooperates With 'Action Directe'

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 23 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Nathalie Menigeon and Jean-Marc Rouilland, two of the founders of the extreme left-wing French organization "Action Directe" and their assistants Joselle Aubron and George Kipriani were arrested in the city of Orleans by a special squad of the French police.

Nathalie Menigeon, the 29-year-old woman, was one of the ringleaders of this organization that has carried out several bloody attacks and had a hand in the assassination of George Besse, president of Renault Co.

The organization "Action Directe" cooperates very closely with ASALA.

No Funds To Protect Turkish Embassies

Paris GAMK in Armenian 7 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The funds allocated for the protection of Turkish representatives and diplomats abroad against Armenian terrorism have suddenly been cut off by the Finance Ministry, thus creating a very difficult and disturbing situation for the personnel.

Previously, it had been decided that extraordinary measures should be taken to protect Turkish embassies, consular buildings, and representatives in eight principal capitals against possible Armenian attacks and assassination attempts. To this end, 3 years ago it was decided to build special buildings for Turkish diplomatic representatives in those cities and to take all sorts of defensive measures. But it now appears that the Finance Ministry has frozen the funds for those projects which, under these conditions, remain unrealizable. Interested circles have let it be known that the said ministry has decided to cancel those funds with the justification that the constructions would be extremely costly. According to those same circles, it had been planned to build special houses or to carry out necessary changes on existing houses for the safety of Turkish diplomats and the protection of diplomatic buildings. These cities were identified as Paris, Madrid, London, Vienna, Rome, New York, and certain Scandinavian countries and cities. The plan was to buy a building and to equip it with the necessary means of protection. According to information received, it is only in New York that the plan has been realized, but the work done in Paris and Madrid is far from satisfactory. The plan that has now been completely canceled by the Finance Ministry foresaw a cost of close to \$3.5 billion, a sum considered too high and unrealizable for the budget of a country such as Turkey.

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

FRENCH SOCIALISTS ADOPT RESOLUTION ON ARMENIAN CAUSE

At French Socialist Congress

Paris GAMK in Armenian/French 8 Apr 87 p 1

[Article by Robert Aydabirian]

[Text] Invited as a fraternal party, the FRA-Dachnaksoutioun was in Lille with two delegations: that of the World Committee, with Hrair Maroukhian and Henri Papazian; that of the FRA of France, with Robert Aydabirian and Vartkes Miroyan.

For 3 days they followed the lively debates that animate the foremost party of France, which pays attention to all social strata of French society--women, the elderly, students, workers, retirees, immigrants, minorities; essential social matters--social security, unemployment; community problems--drugs, audio-visual media, the national status code.

But the Lille congress provided the representatives of our party with a unique occasion for promoting and carrying the motion of the Rhone Socialist Federation, which asks the French Socialist Party to support the draft resolution "for a political solution to the Armenian Question during the plenary session of the European Parliament in May or June of 1987.

The motion that was carried by the Resolutions Committee early Saturday morning was supported by Louis Mermaz, Laurent Fabius, Louis Le Pensec, Charles Hernu, and many others.

This action of the congress, the first of its kind, provides encouragement to all European socialists, foremost among them Henry Saby, to support Armenian claims against all the theses and antitheses that are developing with respect to the opportuneness of acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

In addition, the FRA-Dachnaksoutioun representatives had many meetings and talks with representatives of foreign delegations, as well as important officials, such as Laurent Fabius, Michel Rocard, Pierre Mauroy, Jack Lang, and some loyal friends of Armenia: Louis Mermaz, Charles Hernu, Jean Poperen, Joseph Franceschi.

They noted Laurent Fabius's specific attention to the matter of genocide and historic revisionism, and Michel Rocard's interest in strengthening relations with the Armenians.

From 6 April onwards, the new Administrative Committee was to implement the arrangements needed to carry out the actions approved in the motion on Armenia.

The congress heard many spokesmen speak of the European and internationalist mission of the French party. From the direction that it has taken, the congress has shown that it was proceeding with "heart and reason."

Resolution Adopted

Paris GAMK in Armenian/French 8 Apr 87 p 1

[Boxed item]

[Text] The national congress, in adopting the motion presented by the Rhone Federal Congress, instructs the new Administrative Committee of the Socialist Party "to urge all European socialist parties to join the French Socialist Party, during the plenary session of the European Parliament, in supporting the draft resolution "for a political solution to the Armenian Question in its initial form, that is, with reference to the Armenian Genocide, and in recommending the establishment of a dialog between Turkey and the representatives of the Armenian people."

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CSO: 4619/20

NPUG SECRETARY-GENERAL DISCUSSES ELECTIONS, PARTY COMPOSITION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 13 Mar 87 pp 33-34

[Interview of Khalid Muhyi-al-Din by Usama 'Aja: "The Ruling Party Will Win a Majority: The Experiment has Proven the Difficulty of the Isolation of Any Group in National Action"]

[Text] "Activity" has once again returned to the Egyptian political scene and the "heat" of the elections for the new Egyptian parliament has increased as all the parties have come close to finishing their platforms and lists in order to begin the election battle, which will determine the future of Egyptian political activity for a number of years to come.

AL-HAWADITH has tried to observe the political activity of the Egyptian opposition parties through a lengthy dialogue with Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, secretary-general of the NPUG [National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party], one of the opposition parties that may be "small", but has nevertheless been influential since it began political activity in 1976, despite the small number of votes that it has obtained in each election. Although it obtained no more than 10 percent of the votes in the elections of 1976, none of its candidates won any elections in 1979, and it obtained only 4 percent of the votes in the elections of 1984, the Grouping Party, those who have studied the party experiment agree, is the most effective, best organized and most aware party on the scene.

[Question] After 11 years of the party experiment in Egypt and after one party has remained in authority since the July revolution in 1952, it is certain that the experiment has had both negative and positive aspects. How does the Grouping Party view these?

[Answer] Naturally, there are a number of positive and negative aspects in the multi-party experiment in Egypt. One of the positive aspects is that pluralism has become a fact, despite the fact that it is still limited. This prevents matters from becoming normalized and the result of this is an idea that each party has a majority on the political scene. If there were freedom to form parties, there would be many parties, but only a small group of influential parties and political forces would remain. In addition, pluralism is still limited by the necessity of having permission to establish new parties and publish newspapers. Likewise, party activity means that society

must accept the idea of "party membership", meaning that no citizen can be harmed because of his party membership. However, the preventing those who belong to opposition parties from holding leadership positions is an barrier to positive elements and powerful personalities, except for the fighters, and there are always so few of them! In addition, the Egyptian political system is still closest to a system of the domination of the ruling party or the all-encompassing system, meaning that the governors and the mayors have to belong to the ruling party, a fact that poses a considerable challenge to the Egyptian opposition parties, since, in practical terms, they have to confront the state apparatus, which is several thousand years old.

[Question] Is this the reason that the Grouping Party demands that the 8 percent figure necessary to be included in the People's Assembly be reduced or done away with?

[Answer] Naturally, no party is born a giant, despite the fact that there are certain political circumstances that might help make a party a giant. For example, the Wafd Party was a giant before the July Revolution, because it was the party of the nationalist movement and the Socialist Union was a giant because it was the party of the July Revolution. When a party that advocates an idea or a program is born, it needs popular mass action and this is what has happened in every country in the world. The Italian Socialist Party only obtained 9 percent of the votes.

[Question] What about the impartiality of the elections and the guarantees that the Grouping Party demands to achieve this impartiality, after the repeated accusations of fraud made against the various governments in the elections of 1979 and 1984?

[Answer] I think that our demand is fair and simple. It can be summed up in the necessity of a person's signing next to his name on the voters' lists and writing the number of his identity card or something that proves who he is, punishing fraud, and considering falsifying election documents the same as frauding official documents.

[Question] Is the Grouping Party still proposing the idea of a neutral government supervising the elections to ensure their fairness?

[Answer] This represents a minimum. We demand this in order to implement our past proposals. This does not mean that there is doubt about the government. We agreed with President Mubarak when he said that there is no neutral country in the world. However, we say that what is happening in Egypt is not happening in any other country in the world.

[Question] Do you think that with a guarantee of the fairness of the elections, the National Party might lose the majority that it obtains every election?

[Answer] I think that even if the elections were fair, the National Party would still win a majority. However, it would not be the large majority that it wins each time, because it is the party of the government, administration and services. However, after many election battles and with a guarantee of impartiality, things can change.

[Question] After the 'Abidin Conference, at which the opposition parties were able to mobilize thousands of people, the idea of coordination among parties emerged and the idea of making a unified list was proposed. However, this idea was aborted. Who among the opposition parties is responsible for this?

[Answer] After an agreement was reached on the idea of a unified list, and on a democratic program that dealt with amending the constitution and the laws with a bad reputation, the annulment of the law concerning elections with proportional lists, and the return to individual candidacies, an agreement was reached to adopt this program and to propose the idea of a unified list in the name of the strongest party, the Wafd, or the weakest, the Umma. We chose the Wafd and it was agreed to distribute the lists in accordance with definite rules. Negotiations began, but the supreme body of the Wafd did not agree with a majority of 11 votes to 9. Fuad Saraj-al-Din was one of those who agreed with the unified list. They said that the reason was a legal one, fearing that the lists would be contested as frauded, especially with the leaders and symbols of the parties appearing on the lists, despite the fact that Sabri Mubdi, a member of the central secretariat of the Grouping Party, would be at the top of the list of the Nationalist Party in Isma'iliyyah and so far he has not resigned from the party.

[Question] Does this mean that the Wafd is responsible for the failure of the idea of a unified list?

[Answer] It has been said that the reason for the refusal of the party was a legal one. I do not know if this was the real reason or if there are political reasons, but we must accept the apparent.

[Question] What about the unified list of the Labor Party, which included Muslim Brothers and the Liberal Party. Why did the Grouping Party reject it?

[Answer] Ibrahim Shukri, the head of the Socialist Labor Party approached me with the possibility of the Grouping Party sharing a list with the Liberal Party, the Nasirists and the Muslim Brotherhood, but he made a different agreement, by which the Muslim Brotherhood would make up 40 percent of the lists, the Liberal Party 20 percent and the Labor Party and the Grouping together would have gotten 40 percent. I realized that the share of the Grouping Party would be 15 percent of the seats, because the Labor Party would make sure that it won a larger number of votes. So we refused to take part in this unified list and decided within the Grouping Party to participate in the elections individually.

[Question] If we suppose that the opposition parties had agreed on a unified list, what would have been the results and impact of this?

[Answer] Of course, there would have been a better possibility for joint action and coordination of the publicity campaign during the election period. As for the final result, given that the opposition parties have won 27 percent in past elections, is that they would have won at least 35 percent.

[Question] It has been said repeatedly that the possibility that the heads of the opposition parties, and you are one of them, becoming candidates

individually, and not appearing on the lists of their parties is shameful. What do you think?

[Answer] I think exactly the opposite. We are working under a strange election law and we must search for ways to introduce the largest number of members possible into the parliament. If there are people whose circumstances enable them to succeed on individually, why don't we give them the chance. This does not mean that I will run in the elections far removed from the Grouping Party, I will rather propose its program. My electoral capacity is secretary-general of the Grouping Party and the purpose of the party's running in the elections is still to have the largest number of members in the representative assembly. This is what we are trying to do and it is enough that the Grouping won 250,000 votes in the 1984 elections and did not get into the People's Assembly.

[Question] Don't you think that if the symbols of the Grouping Party run in the elections individually, it will be difficult for the party to win the necessary 8 percent?

[Answer] It is well-known in the political arena that whoever gives his vote to the Grouping Party will not deviate. I believe that the votes of the Grouping Party will increase because the party is registered in many regions. If the elections take place in a normal fashion, the party can exceed the 8 percent. [Question] But the evidence indicates that the Grouping Party is decreasing. In the 1976 elections it won four seats among the 63 candidates. It did not win any seats in 1979 and it only won 4 percent of the votes in the last elections?

[Answer] The explanation of that is that in the 1976 elections, where there was no fraud, the party won more than 10 percent of the votes. As for the last elections, the number of people who participated in them was not more than 2.5 million people, whereas the government claims that the number of those who participated was more than 5 million. In addition, it must be taken into consideration that the 1984 elections witnessed severe competition among new parties, which had not participated in the 1976 elections. The Grouping has not lost its influence nor its strength. I absolutely deny this. The government and its apparatus are sometimes strong and their services are widespread. We face a bitter reality and our perservation of our structres is in and of itself a great victory.

[Question] Don't you think that among the strange incongruities is that the government has agreed to what the opposition has called for, i.e., holding the elections by list, since the mid-seventies and that since lists have been adopted, the opposition is once again seeking individual elections?

[Answer] When we asked for lists, we asked that there be no restriction, that is, that they not be party lists or conditioned upon the 8 percent figure, because the advantage of this kind of election is that it permits coalitions among more than one party and running in the elections in certain areas and not in all of them. I believe that proportional, unconditional and nonpartisan lists are the best system, because no vote is wasted.

[Question] Some have begun to bet that the Grouping formula has begun to collapse, based on the fact that the symbols of the nationalist faction have left it and on the desire of the Nasirists to form their own parties?

[Answer] I do not agree with this. We do not have the illusion that every element of the Grouping will remain forever within the Grouping. It was clear that the party did not include all the factions, since there are more Nasirists outside the Grouping than within it and the same is true of the Marxist factions, the variable religious movement and even the nationalist movement. However, the experiment has proved the difficulty of one group's isolating itself in national action. The Nasirists are forming their own party, but they are calling for cooperation with the Tajammu', and this is the same position as the Marxists. I believe that, as each one of these factions founds its own party, those who believe in unifying the forces of the Egyptian left in one party will remain. On the other hand, if you mean the departure of Dr Yahya al-Jamal, who was the deputy head of the party, as representative of the nationalist faction, Dr Muhammad Khalafallah stayed. We think that if the Naserite party is created, certain Nasirists will leave the Grouping and the same goes for the Marxists, if they are permitted to form a party. However, the Grouping Party's formula will remain represented in the Grouping personality. By this we mean that it will remain in the Grouping Party, whatever the ideological direction.

[Question] Some people also stress the Egyptian communists' control over the direction of things and their dominance within the Grouping?

[Answer] This is not true. If we observed the number of Marxists in the central secretariat, which is the highest authority in the NPUG and must approve all decisions, we find that among the 18 members, there are no more than five Marxists. The non-Marxist members of the secretariat include Dr Khalafallah, Lutfi Wakid, Ramzi Fahim, Husayn Fahmi, Shaykh Mustafa 'Asi, Abd-al-Ghaffar Shakr, Muhammad Khalil and me. The Marxists are Rif'at al-Sa'id, Abu-al-'Azz al-Hariri, 'Ariyan Nasif and Fuad Marsi. It is the activity of the Marxists that gives the impression that they are the dominant faction.

[Question] Do you think that the "religious faction" in Egypt is the trump card in any election, which would explain the flirtation between it and all the other Egyptian parties?

[Answer] There is no "flirtation" between us and the religious movement. Such "flirtation" ended with the Wafd. However, in general, we are not against the religious movement, but we disagree with some of its political interpretations and its view of matters. We defend its right to form a party in the future. I believe that the current elections will be a true measure of the strength of the religious movement after the termination of its coalition with the Wafd.

[Question] Will the election program of the Grouping Party this year differ from its program in the 1984 elections?

[Answer] Certainly, the principal outline of the two programs are the same. However, there are certain issues that have imposed themselves in the arena and that we find necessary to deal with in our program, such as the increase

in the severity of the economic crisis, the government appointment of graduates, housing, agriculture and how to escape from the current economic dilemma.

[Question] Was the decision of President Mubarak to hold a referendum on dissolving the parliament a surprise, which presented a challenge to the parties in preparing for the elections?

[Answer] The timing and the way in which it was done was a surprise. After discussing the elections law, quickly and in a hurry. There was a belief that President Mubarak would dissolve the People's Assembly, because he could not accept that he be nominated for his second term as president by an assembly whose constitutionality was challenged. However, it was thought that President Mubarak would inform the opposition parties of the decision to dissolve the assembly and this did not occur and everyone was surprised. For this reason, we notice that the process of preparing for the elections took place in a hurry. We began to prepare for the 1984 elections in July 1983, whereas the preparations for these elections did not exceed one month.

[Question] It is certain that there are areas of agreement and areas of difference with the current regime. Where can you separate them?

[Answer] It is certain that there are differences from the social and economic points of view. However, this does not prevent there from being an area of agreement with the regime on the issues of ending the Iraq-Iran war and supporting Iraq. There is agreement on the necessity of convening an international conference, although there are differences concerning some details. There is agreement concerning getting out of the economic dilemma and disagreement on the methods for doing so, because the regime seeks to treat it with current conditions remaining as they are and we want to change them.

13292

CSO: 4504/18

ECONOMY MINISTER DISCUSSES EXPORTS, OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Feb 87 p 10

[Interview with Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade: "Egyptian Minister of Economy to AL-WATAN: 'My Trip to Sudan Has Been Successful and We Have Clarified Issues; Discussing Conditions of Fund-investment Firms Requires Complete and Detailed Study'" in Cairo; date and place not specified]

[Text] Cairo--AL-WATAN Bureau--Dr Yusri Mustafa, the minister of economy and foreign trade, is totally disinclined to give press interviews. Even though 3 months have passed since he assumed his ministerial position and despite the caricature several-week long press campaign against the Ministry of Economy and its official agencies, the minister has not lost his smile and his composure. Even though he received us warmly, he has refused to discuss numerous vital issues.

Egyptian-Sudanese Negotiations' Progress

It so happened that my interview with the minister came in the wake of his return from his several-day visit to Sudan at the head of an Egyptian economic delegation. This is why I opened my interview with the minister on the outcome of this visit.

The minister said: The truth is that the visit has been extremely successful and that we have clarified numerous issues connected with integration. The visit's main objective was to conclude a long-term trade agreement for the next 5 years. In accordance with this agreement, a free trade exchange between the two countries has been established whereas this exchange had been previously restricted to no more than 5 million pounds. The commodity lists used as a guide in concluding this agreement have also been modified, keeping in mind that the lists have not been altered since 1965.

It has also been agreed to expand the sphere of customs exemptions on trade exchange between the two countries. New commodity lists have been determined and these lists will be either exempted from customs fees or subjected to reduced fees, depending on the type and nature of the commodity involved. Foremost among these commodities are manufactured furniture, underwear and clothing, machine- and manually produced rugs, butane gas cylinders, beehives,

trucks buses, and microphones. The list of Sudanese goods exported to Egypt includes reptile skins, peanut butter, and some hand-made goods.

The 1987 trade protocol was also signed during the visit. The protocol includes three commodity lists. The first list comprises goods exchanged on a dollar basis and valued at \$200 million. The second list includes goods exchanged within the framework of the deal concluded by the two countries and valued at \$38 million. The third list includes goods exchanged in the integration zone between the Northern Province and Aswan and valued at \$8.5 million.

[Question] One of the most prominent problems facing the Egyptian-Sudanese trade is the problem of the exchange rate. Is there anything new in this connection?

[Answer] Insofar as Sudan is concerned, the computed dollar exchange rate, assessed on the basis of the Egyptian pound, has been raised by 40 percent to encourage Egyptian exports to Sudan, especially since there is a surplus of \$120 million in the trade balance in favor of Sudan. The minister added that he includes in this figure the indebtedness resulting from importing Sudanese camels and the value of the Egyptian oil exports (which Sudan was supposed to import but has not imported). The new customs exemptions and the flexible commodity lists drawn up are capable of eliminating this deficiency in the trade balance between the two countries.

Public Sector's Losses

[Question] It has been said recently that mismanagement is the real reason behind the public sector's losses.

[Answer] In the past few days, a discussion was held with the general assemblies of the firms and organizations controlled by the Ministry of Economy. Despite the losses, the picture is not gloomy. All the banks and insurance companies have made abundant profits. Among the foreign trade firms, only one firm has incurred a loss. A committee has been formed to study the causes of these losses.

There remains the problem of the big losses incurred by the cotton companies. What is said about mismanagement is possible, even though it is not the real reason for the losses. There is the problem of the cotton-exporting firms' "legal expenses," which are much lower than these firms' actual expenses, thus leading to heavy losses.

Solving Exporters' Problems

[Question] The period declared by the prime minister for eliminating the export obstacles is about to end. What is new in this connection?

[Answer] The committees formed have studied the exporters' and Businessmen Association's proposals. The new measures to eliminate these obstacles will be announced in the next few days. I have learned from other sources that there is a tendency to abolish the tariff penalties of exporters. However, the demand by numerous exporters that the Public Control Authority's role in exports be abolished has not been approved by the economic administration. In meetings held in Egypt in the past few months with Saudi and Kuwaiti businessmen's delegations, it was agreed to intensify Egyptian control over goods and products exported to the Arab markets. Moreover, consideration is currently given to abolishing the provision requiring an exporter to re-register in the exporters' register every 3 years. In the interview, Dr Mustafa Yusri put the emphasis on simplifying the procedures, on allowing all fees to be paid in one installment and on facilitating the procedures for sample testing.

Fate of Investment Firms

[Question] Numerous studies have been conducted to assess the conditions of the fund-investment firms operating in Egypt, including a study by the Ministry of Economy and another study by the Money Market Authority. What has been done about these studies?

[Answer] Discussing the conditions of the fund-investment firms is a delicate matter that requires a complete and detailed study. The main touchstone in this connection is the law which is above all. All conditions will be corrected in accordance with the law and in a manner that bolsters Egypt's economic march. A decree which has been issued by the minister of economy and has been received with satisfaction by people operating in the free zones is the decree suspending the decision made by Dr Sultan Abu-'Ali, the former minister of economy, prohibiting the entry of banned goods to the free zones even if such goods are imported for the purpose of re-exportation or for use in products designated for exportation.

Dr Yusri Mustafa also abolished Directive No 8 concerning maritime agencies in Egyptian ports because of the directive's negative consequences on the activities of ships transitting through Egyptian ports and the Suez Canal. The directive led to increased shipping costs and motivated ships to turn to nearby Mediterranean ports. Because this activity is an export activity primarily, the minister agreed to apply the privileges granted to exporters, especially the right of shipowners and maritime agency owners to retain the foreign currency they collect from their activity and to apply competitive prices to the services renewed by the Ministry of Maritime Transport.

8494/12851
CSO: 4504/151

CABINET SAID TO FORM VARIOUS NEW RESOLUTIONS

Khartoum AL-HADAF in Arabic 3 Apr 87 p 1

[Article: "Important Decisions of the Cabinet"]

[Text] At its regular session yesterday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the cabinet decided that travel outside the country by official delegations will be restricted to clearly defined missions with material or economic yield to the country or related to security or strategic subjects. The cabinet decided to follow this measure with the strengthening of our diplomatic missions abroad, so that they can represent the Sudan on other matters. Within the same context, the cabinet decided that travel for any purpose would be preceded by a preparatory meeting of the participants to plan and set the delegation's strategy, and that another meeting would be held after the conclusion of the mission to plan follow-up of the implementation of the results of the mission. The decision designated the General Secretariat of the cabinet as the coordinating authority on questions of foreign travel by delegations.

During the meeting, the cabinet heard an oral report by the interior minister on his recent trip to Darfur. He went into details of the security situation in the region, praising the efforts of magnanimous persons that were crowned by the successful conclusion of peace between the Qamar, Fallatah, and Mararib tribes. The minister stated that the results of army and police security efforts in the region will be felt in coming days.

The cabinet approved at its meeting a memorandum by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister on hosting a conference of Arab and African information ministers in Khartoum this July. The cabinet also approved a bill to ratify the notes of mutual understanding between the government of the Sudan and the government of the Republic of Iran that were introduced by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The notes deal with the fields of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and with the fields of geology, mining, industry, agriculture, education, and trade.

12937

CSO: 4504/210

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS SAID TO REFLECT BA'TH SUGGESTIONS

Khartoum AL-HADAF in Arabic 5 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] A responsible source in the political committee of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party stated to AL-HADAF that the constitutional amendments approved last Thursday contained most of the essential ideas and suggestions made by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the framework of its position opposing the suggestions previously offered for discussion. The Ba'th Party had presented its ideas critical of the draft amendments to the newspaper over the course of more than a week. Also, its representatives communicated them in many political conferences that dealt with the subject of the constitutional amendments. The party presented them in the meeting that took place with the public prosecutor, at which time Professors Sa'id Hammur, 'Umar Muhajir, and Taysir Muddathir presented them to him in a meeting especially for this purpose.

AL-HADAF's reading of the amendments that were approved indicates that the Constituent Assembly relied in the amendments on a proposal presented exclusively by the Ba'th Party, rather than on any others from all the other parties combined. This was the suggestion that the Constituent Assembly should make a decision about the interim legislation as soon as it convenes. Otherwise, its not making a decision about the interim legislation should be considered equivalent to an invalidation of it. The Ba'th Party had presented the suggestion in the context of the guarantees necessary for the issuance of the interim legislation, in order to transcend the fear of submitting the interim legislation to the Constituent Assembly without its incorporating it into its agenda for a decision about whether it would remain or become invalid.

In a related development, the public prosecutor praised before the Constituent Assembly the parties that contributed their ideas and suggestions concerning constitutional amendments from outside

the Constituent Assembly. This was also stressed by Professor Muhammad Ibrahim Naqd, secretary of the Sudanese Communist Party and a member of the democratic opposition bloc in the assembly, and by the leader of the opposition in the assembly, Professor 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha.

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CSO: 4504/210

PROBLEMS FACING DARFUR REGION REPORTED

Khartoum AL-HADAF in Arabic 30 Mar 87 p 6

[Article by Ibrahim al-Rahid: "Some Hands Put Obstacles in Front of Regional Government"]

[Text] Anyone who follows the course of the security aspect in Darfur fully understands the extent to which security conditions in the region have deteriorated in the last 10 years, especially in the border areas of the region. Weapons have flowed into the region in an unaccustomed manner, and this has led law-breakers to use them against people. This is in addition to other problems, such as services and smuggling. On these subjects, we met with Professor Ibrahim al-Rahid, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party candidate at 'Idd al-Ghanam. This was the conversation:

"The phenomenon of armed looting in Darfur is the result of an abundance of weapons that enter the region across the western or southern borders. The civil war in the South of the country and the war in Chad represent the principal sources of weapons smuggling. The citizen has been the victim. I call attention to the fact that there are people whose hobby is murder and terrorism. The deployment of the army and security forces has, however, lessened the number of incidents of looting. We in the Ba'th Party emphasize the need to take a strong stand against highway robbers, so that security can return."

About smuggling he said: "Among the deplorable phenomena is that of smuggling. Since some commodities are scarce, they have been brought into the region by illegitimate means. The smuggler thus becomes an uncrowned king, because he can impose whatever price he wants for his goods, and the consumer can do nothing but yield to the power of need.

"For example, the scarcity of sugar in the region has led smugglers to bring it in from countries bordering the region within other materials, such as perfumes and cigarettes, over very rough roads that the authorities are unable to watch. In a short time, some poor persons have become wealthy. Also, the phenomenon of arms smuggling has created the phenomenon of armed looting."

[AL-HADAF] This leads us to the question of services.

[Answer] There is a deficiency in some aspects. For example, the region suffers from difficulty of transportation, especially in the autumn season, with citizens complaining about the badness of the roads even within cities like Nyala, not to mention such distant roads as the one from Nyala to Umm Dafuq. Everyone knows what happened because of the flash floods this year. A citizen's car was swept away at Wadi Balil. As for health care, there is a scarcity of medicines, at times a complete absence of them, and this constitutes a danger to the citizen's health, especially in remote areas, where there are no specialists, and not even nurses.

[AL-HADAF] Finally, talk to us about regional government.

[Answer] All the masses have raised the demand for "governing oneself by oneself," or regional government. This is because they realize that it will carry out the demands of the people more than the central government. There are some hands that want to spoil the idea of self-government by bringing up problems and putting obstacles in its way. We in the Ba'th Party condemn those hands and are working to uncover all their criminal schemes within the region and outside of it, so that citizens can become aware of the bad faith these "gatekeepers" harbor under slogans from which they are as far as they can be. What is required of the regional government at the present time is to carry out the needs of the citizens and improve services.

[AL-HADAF] Professor al-Rahid went on in his conversation, saying: "Growth is proceeding slowly in Darfur Region and is absent in some areas. For example, we find that the West Savanna Development Authority, which was the first development initiative in the region, has implemented some of its development programs, but that those programs have not fulfilled their basic purpose. That is not because of a deficiency, but because of the extensive geographical area of the region."

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WAYS TO BOOST ARAB, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS PRESENTED

Khartoum AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 Mar 87 p 9

[Article by 'Ali 'Abdallah 'Ali: "Do We Need Conferences and Symposia To Spur Arab and Foreign Investment?"]

[Text] I have learned that there is movement in the direction of holding a conference for Arab and foreign investors in the coming months. The persistent question that comes to mind is, Do we need conferences and symposia for chatter and verbiage so that we can spur Arab and foreign investment, or do we need much simpler and fewer things than this?

It is clear that we have become addicted to the idea of conferences and study groups. In my opinion, some of them have become operations for hiring oneself out. Attracting Arab and foreign investment does not require all this effort and work to hold conferences and symposia. It requires from us certain clear and specific things, some of which we will mention in what follows.

First, the state at all its levels must define with great clarity its philosophy in this area and whether it wants Arab and foreign investment to have a place within the framework of the state's economic and social plans. Any contradiction between one agency and another will lead to the introduction of doubt concerning the state's intentions and will show its lack of seriousness and credibility.

Second, the legislation and detailed regulations must be issued that can help a prospective investor know what his rights and duties are. In this area, too, unity and clarity in legislation are needed. No agency should be allowed to deviate or act in isolation from what is clearly defined as the legal relation that binds the Sudan to anyone, Sudanese or foreign, who wants to invest in the Sudan.

The investor knows and wants to know only one agency: the one that can give him adequate guarantees concerning his investment and a guarantee for the conversion of his legitimate profits. In this case, these are the pertinent ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, or the agency entrusted with overseeing Arab and foreign investment on behalf of the government of the Sudan. This means that there is no room for other promises, whatever their

source. The investor knows only the state as a legal framework with which he deals.

Third, all units responsible for spurring investment must be aware of everything that is decided concerning Arab and foreign investment and the treatment that the prospective investor assumes he will encounter.

If we accept that Arab and foreign investors should have a place in our plans, the atmosphere as a whole has to be prepared, i.e., the atmosphere and framework that soothe the investor and make him confident about bringing in his money for investment in the country. For example, it is absurd for a customs or passport official to stop an Arab or foreigner assumed to have come to invest and ask him about how he obtained his multiple-entry visa or demand that he give him the foreign currency he has declared so that the official can count it and verify that it agrees with what he declared. If the investor has no knowledge of such measures, they doubtlessly provoke him and make him averse to staying. It must be clear to anyone who wants to come to the country that he will be confronted with certain definite regulations, so that he can announce whether he accepts or rejects them before he comes to the country.

Fourth, if the state accepts the principle of participation by Arab and foreign investment, it must also define clearly what directions it wants Arab and foreign investment to penetrate. Doubtlessly, the work that has begun on drawing up an investment map to be published in a number of languages will have a great influence in making the prospective investor aware of the sectors he can enter before he arrives in the country. Whether he accepts or rejects, he will in both cases be clear about the matter.

Fifth, Arab investment in particular often has had experiences in the Sudan. The state or relevant agencies must make an evaluation of all these investments or clarify the problems and obstacles that have stood in the way of these investments.

There is the Kinanah sugar project: In spite of its success, there are still some doubts about its feasibility. There is also the Kuwayti-Sudanese Land Transportation Company, which was liquidated years ago, etc.

The Arab investor doubtlessly wants to know what happened in these and other projects, so that he can define his position: either to enter, or to turn to another country. The Arab investor equally wants to know why the joint Sudanese-Arab companies have limited their investments to the areas they chose, and not to other areas.

Sixth, in many instances the Arab private sector seeks help and information from the Arab organizations that work in the field of development financing or in the field of investment insurance in order to learn about economic conditions in the Arab countries. Our affairs must also be clear with these organizations, lest any shortcoming be reflected in the form of negative recommendations to Arab investors.

The statements made by the general secretary of the Arab League in February 1987 upon his visit to the Sudan make it clear that he believes we have to reorder our household before we think of spurring Arab investment and, by implication, other investments.

Seventh, if we cannot do it at the present time, given the fact that we have to order our household and its affairs, or because we have other priorities more important than spurring investment, there is nothing wrong with our saying so bravely and clearly, instead of leaving matters in a form that will in the end do harm to the cause.

Eighth, the responsibility for working to clarify everything relating to Arab and foreign investment, whether this is done in the form of conferences, symposia, or study groups, is one of the responsibilities of the relevant official agencies. It must not be left to individual and personal efforts, however good the intentions, because such efforts may lead to complicating or distorting matters. Clarity must come from the direction of the state in a manner that is clear and unambiguous.

Ninth, if we assume that the state has agreed to spur investment and has worked to make all the necessary legal and organizational arrangements, it must work so that those in charge of the investment operation in all its steps are people who believe in the activity and its seriousness. If there is anyone who does not believe in the importance of the job, he may perhaps accept the laws and regulations and then work to thwart them.

This is what is on my mind--and God stands behind the intention.

12937

CSO: 4504/210

BRIEFS

JORDAN TO PROVIDE TRUCKS--Khartoum, April 6 (SUNA)--A number of Jordanian companies working in the field of transportation had agreed to provide Sudan with 40 trucks for the transportation of sorghum and cotton crops to Port Sudan, Commerce and Cooperation Minister Muhammad Yusuf Abu-Hurayrah said here yesterday. He added that the trucks would arrive here during the next week saying that the Jordanian Companies had agreed to provide the trucks with petrol and spare parts. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 6 Apr 87 p 6] /8309

SORGHUM EXPORTATION--Khartoum, April 6 (SUNA)--The Ministry of Commerce Cooperation and Supply had agreed the exportation of 130,000 tonnes of sorghum on equal [parity] deals basis in accordance with new restriction, Commerce Cooperation and Supply Minister Muhammad Yusuf Abu-Hurayrah said yesterday. He said only the 1985-86 season's sorghum would be exported on equal deal but the rest of the sorghum would be exported in cash. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 6 Apr 87 p 8] /8309

GUM ARABIC MARKETING--Khartoum, April 8 (SUNA)--The revenue of Gum Arabic marketing for the current season had increased 20 million dollars compared to the revenue of last season although only half of the current season production was exported, Commerce Minister Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Abu-Hurayrah said here yesterday. Regarding sesame marketing Abu-Hurayrah said they had contracts for the export of most of sesame production for the current season. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 8 Apr 87 p 7] /8309

CSO: 4500/88

OUTGOING CHIEF OF STAFF LEVI TO ENTER POLITICS

Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew No 218, 4 Feb 87 p 9

[Article by Nahum Barne'a: "Moshe Levi, Politician in the Making"]

[Text] Mati Atzmon, a lawyer and public-spirited Jerusalemite, is determined to turn Moshe Levi, the citizen, into the mayor of Jerusalem. Atzmon is aligned politically iwth RAFI, which is presently under the leadership of Minister Yigal Horvitz. When RAFI was a part of Likud, Atzmon was for a period of time a member of the city council. His great dream was to be mayor, but he is willing to give that up in favor of "Moishe."

Levi has an apartment in Jerusalem which he currently rents out. He comes to Jerusalem at least once a week and stays with one of his two closest friends, the dentist Shim'on Gilat or Mati Atzmon. The idea to make him mayor first came to mind on Yom Kippur, a year and a half ago, when, as usual every year, the LEvi family and the Atzmon family went to the Western Wall. "Suddenly stones were thrown," said Mati. "My younger brother had the idea that if Moishe were mayor, order would reign. Moishe heard and smiled. Right after Yom Kippur, I began to get going with the idea. Apparently, the Labor Party is hitching a ride with the idea." The first problem, Atzmon thinks, is Levi's wife, who prefers to live in Bayt-Alfa. "About a month ago, I talked with her, and by then she was no longer feeling as strongly about it as she had." The second problem is the competition. 'Uzi Narkis has presented himself as a candidate to the Labor Party. The lawyers Ehud Olmert or Ruby Rivlin are likely to be candidates for Likud. The third problem concerns the 2 years that will pass before the next mayoral elections. Two years is a very long time in Israeli politics. The magic of the uniform and the military rank will dissipate. Levi, who war fairly drab even in uniform, is likely to be played out quickly. Atzmon promises that "this will not happen to Moishe. I do not see a single candidate who can measure up to him in Jerusalem."

Eleven major generals preceded Levi. Every one of them, sooner or later, turned to public life. Seven of them filled or are currently filling explicitly political positions in the government and the Knesset. Not one has been eliminated. This is the solid ground on which Levi plans to develop a political career.

What kind of politician will he be? His actions as chief of staff point clearly to what Levi as a politician can offer. He does not present a narrow world

view. In this respect, he is very similar to most of the chiefs of staff who preceded him with the exception of Rafael Eytan. He does not lean heavily in one specific political direction, as did Moshe Dayan for example. With respect to the political system, the media, and public opinion, he has generally filled the role of quieting things down rather than stirring things up. During most of his reign as chief of staff, he knew how to give the politicians and the newspapers the respect and consideration they wanted while exploiting for his benefit the bitter remnants of what Rafael Eytan had left behind.

He has shown himself to be a master at manipulating the system. He has paid a lot of attention to personal appointments. Every placement list brought before the defense minister has reflected this craftsmanship. Such and such a lieutenant colonel was assigned a certain unit because the chief of staff wanted to appoint one of his cronies to another unit in a year, and so it was important to clear the way of competitors. By means of such methods, he has filled the entire general staff with Levi people. He only failed in one area--in his attempt to prevent the appointment of his rival Dan Shomron to the position of chief of staff by means of a series of hurried appointments. That attempt soured his relationship with the defense minister in his final months. It also was received badly by the army and, finally, came to nothing.

His talents at manipulation also helped him gain approval of his program for the establishment of a security zone in Lebanon, a program which is considered to be a big success story relative to expectations and alternatives. Levi, a stubborn man who is very clever at bureaucratic struggles, succeeded in putting a halt to IDF budget cuts, got a substantial raise for permanent posts, and held on to the right of brigadier generals to soften the sentences of military offenders. "He was a guardian angel for the IDF," someone central to the defense system said of him. What he lacked with respect to combat heroism and charisma, he made up for with just plain work and constant concern for people. His abilities as a guardian angel will now be able to find expression in their natural environment, the political arena. This week Levi surprised many in the IDF when he issued a sharp denunciation of extremist Jews who attacked Arab cars in East Jerusalem. His first civilian shot was fired.

9348/12232

CSO: 4423/21

YAVNEH MAYOR, MEIR SHITRIT, ASPIRES TO INTERIOR MINISTRY

Tel Aviv KOIERET RASHIT in Hebrew No 218, 4 Feb 87 pp 21, 23

[Article by Tom Shegev: "Meir Shitrit Wants to Join the Government"]

[Text] Meir Shitrit, 39, a success story, is leaving his position as mayor, Yavneh will lose, and he may not gain anything.

Meir Shitrit wants to be interior minister. He left his post as mayor of Yavneh this week, 13 years after being chosen to head the council, in order to make it clear to his party that he is available. If it were offered, he would be willing to accept the post of Israeli ambassador to Washington. No one has offered it to him. He is willing to be minister of housing. No, not deputy minister. He could have been deputy minister years ago. Minister, only minister. Perhaps minister of education? Mayor of Jerusalem? It's a thought--on the condition that Teddy Kollek steps down and supports him.

There is something captivating and youthful about the ambitiousness which he displays for his friends without modesty. And Yavneh, after all, is a success story which belongs entirely to him. Yavneh still needs him, but he believes that it is too small for him. He is 39 and wants to get ahead in life.

Once I was with Yigal Yadin, the late deputy minister, who was then in charge of a project to rehabilitate neighborhoods. Instead of being involved with the needs of the residents, he became enmeshed in the terrible bureaucratic maze which he had created to direct the project. "Why don't you just hand it all over to the town councils," the professor answered. "Teddy, for example, could handle it, Tzitz could do it, but what would I do with someone like what's his name, that Shitrit from Yavneh?" "Why not?" I asked. "Look," the deputy prime minister said, "he is just not someone you could give such a big responsibility to." "Moroccan, young, a Herutnik?" I asked. "I didn't say that," he said defensively.

I went to Yavneh, and, since then, I am no longer objective. It had been a backward town, and now, within 10 years, it has become a small city, very attractive and pleasant to live in.

Shitrit grew up there in one of the shacks. Some people from the establishment whose job was to cultivate worthy children found him and helped him. They sent

him to high school. He skipped a grade and so had time to attend the university. During the army, he was sent to an officer's course, and when he returned, his firends told him he should be mayor of the town. He agreed. What happened next has been told before. He approached the Labor Party and asked for help. Certainly, young man, they told him, on the condition that you do as you are told. That was how they lost him, the way they lost the whole Oriental community. Shitrit did not want to do as he was told. So he wnet to Hertu. The head of the municipal department said, sure, we will help you. He was a small man and not well known. His name was Yitzhaq Shamir. Since then, he has been with him, now in the Knesset and in the movement. (He also supports Moshe Arens, has nothing good to say about David Levi, and says he is afraid of Ariel Sharon.) When he was first chosen, he changed all the names of the streets--to give the residents a good feeling. They do not get a good feeling from Biyalik or Jobtinski, he decided, and called the streets Iris and Lilly and Jasmine and other pretty flowers. He did it to make it nice. And he also planted roses for them like the ones he had seen in Jerusalem.

At one time I invited him to appear once a week on a show called "Two hours from 2 o'clock" on Tzahal radio. Shitrit came from Yavneh to speak for a minute and a half about what should be changed in the country. Why, for example, he asked, should frozen poultry be subsidized? Those who eat frozen chicken in restaurants and hotels do not need subsidies. Simple people, on the other hand, do not like frozen poultry. They like to pluck the feathers, and they do not get any subsidy. He had all these populist, understandable, unpretentious kinds of ideas.

Before and after the broadcast, he told us that he wants to be elected to the Knesset. He was elected. The next day he told us that he had been offered the post of deputy minister, those idiots. He wanted only to be minister. He learned a lesson. His time would come.

Since he remained at Yavneh, he shared his dreams with us. Yavneh needs a tall tower from which one can look out afar. At the top, there would be a revolving restaruant like the one Shitrit had seen in London. After a while, he brought jn plans for building a subway to connect Yavneh with Tel Aviv as he had seen in New York. We told him to build the tower first. What do you mean? he asked us. The tower already exists. We went to see it. It is a water tower that was needed anyway. The restaruant was supposed to finance its establishment. Now it is still for rent. And the subway does not exist. The wadi that Shitrit wanted to turn into a public park is still a wadi, but the Shoqen family is considering moving its newspaper industry to Yavneh, and soon there will be local cable television service. (When he was a young man, Shitrit took a test to be a television announcer and was turned down. As a member of Knesset, he has been permitted to sing several times on television. He prefers Yehoram Gaon.) There are about 2,000 single family homes with an elaborate play of rooftops. Close to half of the 20,000 inhabitants of the town live there. Most of the homes were built in recent years. Some have yet to be built.

This Shitrit took me to the Ma'ayan School. It is considered to be one of the handsomest schools in the country (architect 'Ezra Rogen, Tel Aviv). The structure is reinforced well. The chirdren sit around circular tables, some

are also on the carpet, everyone doing his thing, using an individualized system of education. The atmosphere is very pleasant. I was impressed. In the basement are dozens of computers. Every child in Yavneh spends several hours a week at a computer.

Meir Shitrit and his Yavneh represent the urban/suburban Israeli dream, at whose center is the individual, his profits, and the quality of his life. He is part of the Americanization process which has taken place in Israel and has replaced the kibbutz/socialist dream of the previous generation at whose center was the group.

"The Continuing Story of Yavneh" is written up in a pamphlet put out by Shitrit. "It starts on 22 December 1948, when 22 emigrants from Bulgaria came to prepare the land for families who were still at the absorption center at Pardes-Hanna." In this writing one sees barren sand dunes. That is how Zionism wanted to see the country, as empty or uninhabited. Who lived there before 22 December 1948 and where they are today? The pamphlet does not say, but somewhere it talks about continuing efforts to tear down the remaining Arab houses, poor huts on the verge of collapse. One of the correspondents whom Shitrit had invited this week to his office knew that one of the wealthy men of Palestinian Yavneh is now one of the wealthy ones of Gaza.

"The New Yavneh" is actually only in the past. Most of her new residents are very poor and come from Arab countries. He did not bring them out to suffer. Instead he mixed them with a "strong population," which is what the sociologists call the Ashkenazim. He encouraged them to come to Yavneh and build beautiful houses. They came and brought with them a new standard of living. The money they invested was enough to build houses even for "the weak population," as the Moroccans are called. Shitrit is very proud of the integration. The "mimona" that he arranged annually at his home is not very different from the cocktail parties held at Savyon. In both places they eat stuffed hors d'oeuvres. Meanwhile, most of the children of Yavneh were born in Israel. In contrast to other development towns, there is a chance that most will return to live in Yavneh after they complete their army service.

Shitrit is very good at taking advantage of the good will, or perhaps the guilty conscience, of the Ashkenazic establishment. He has also gotten everything he could from the revolution which brought the Likud to power. He knows about every bonus, incentive, and research fund. He also has ties abroad.

He is a good boy who makes choices carefully and tends not to talk about things that he does not understand. Perhaps that is why he has not gone very far in politics. He is Western, secular, not an extremist. He does not seem to have a clearcut world view, and that too is a sign of his generation. He has a healthy sense of the good life and a lot of practical ability to get things done. He can be an excellent mayor. Who knows what politics will do to him?

9348/12232
CSO: 4423/21

SUGGESTION RAISED FOR ARAB MUNICIPALITY IN EAST JERUSALEM

Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew No 221, 25 Feb 87 pp 26-27

[Article by Mikhal Sel'a: "He Wants To Be Mayor of the Holy City"]

[Text] Dr Nabil al-Jabry is a candidate for mayor of a town which does not yet exist. He is a 42-year old dentist, the son of Shaykh Muhamad 'Ali al-Jabry, former mayor of Hebron and extraordinary leader of the city for 26 years until his death. The younger al-Jabry lived in London for 10 years. When he returned in 1975, he decided not to go back to Hebron. The town seemed too small, too closed and provincial, good material for local jokes relating to Hebronites like the ones Jews relate about the people of Helm. Al-Jabry set up his clinic in East Jerusalem, two steps from the National Hotel and from Tzelah A-Din. His talents made him famous throughout the West Bank. They say that he is even known in Tiberias. Nuns take the trouble to come all the way to him on occasion to have him work on their teeth. Despite the fact that he has no Jewish customers, his Hebrew vocabulary comes from his professional lingo: filling, pain, injection.

He is of average height, dresses elegantly, and has a good sense of humor. His main political activity is concentrated in the lobby of the National Hotel in East Jerusalem which, given the existing prohibitions on political activity for Arabs, is the closest thing to "Bayt Soqolov" or the Knesset cafeteria. There al-Jabry and his friends preach the renewal of the idea that was popular in the 1960's among many Israelis: the establishment of a separate Arab municipality in East Jerusalem. "When Qiryat Arb'a was established in Hebron territory, it was set up as a separate local authority," said Al-Jabry. "Why shouldn't Jerusalem also be two separate municipalities? I want the Arabs to pave the streets of the city, collect taxes, and be responsible for garbage collection. Then if I had complaints, I would know that the problem rests with us, that the issue is not that the Jews are discriminating against us."

During the first stage, Al-Jabry wants to impress upon the Arab consciousness the need for an Arab municipality. "They have to understand that they cannot live without basic freedoms for long. One can sleep by candlelight, but one cannot sleep when chains bind one's hands." In the second stage, life must be made as tolerable as possible by means of assistance from charitable institutions and voluntary organizations. Arabs who have been victimized must be given financial assistance and legal advice, and demonstrations against injustice must be

encouraged. Al-Jabry is cautious about spelling out all the details on this subject. He knows that open expression on such subjects is likely to end in deportation. "We have to be careful not to step on red lines," he says, "or else we will find ourselves on the other side of the bridge."

His Father's Son

At a much later stage, he will turn to the Israelis. "Israeli public opinion is mobilized against us at the moment. No one will take us seriously until we are consolidated enough." He has no intention of looking to Jordan for help at all. Apparently, he sees Jordan as nothing more than an obstacle to independence. "The first agreement has to come from Israel, which controls the area."

How would an Arab East Jerusalem be managed? Al-Jabry has several ideas. The municipal boundaries would be similar to those of Jordanian Jerusalem, including the Jewish Neighborhoods which have been built there. "But I will not allow anyone to say what Teddy Kollek said recently ('I would not want to see an Arab living on my street'). I don't care if Jews live among the Arabs. The prophet Muhamad commanded that one take care of one's neighbor with the idea that he could be in your place." Furthermore, Al-Jabry promises not to make any laws that would discriminate against anyone. All the holy places for all the religions would be protected as sacred places. "Even 'Omar Ibn al-Hatab (the second Halif to conquer Jerusalem) took care to preserve all the holy spots in the city when he conquered it."

The budget and taxes would be a difficult problem for the city. Al-Jabry is sure that he has solutions, that the level of services will change completely in the Arab side of the city. At present, he says, the Arabs pay full taxes and only get to use a meager portion of them. When there is a separate municipality, all the taxes will go completely for services to those who pay them. He is also convinced that the city could be managed with a smaller staff than the current municipality of Jerusalem. "You have to put the right person in the right place. You cannot hire people in order to solve the problem of unemployment. Instead, one must encourage investments in productive industries in the city." He would not establish an Al-Jabry fund on the scale of Kollek's Jerusalem Fund or the Tel-Aviv Fund of Tzitz. He prefers to form a twin cities covenant with cities willing to help. And someone working in this municipality would not travel abroad at the expense of the municipality." Al-Jabry gained the confidence that he could manage an effective administration on a relatively small budget from the Islamic University in Hebron where he is director of the board of governors. He is considered to be the man who got the institution on its feet economically.

He learned how to manage a city at home. "The life of the city was conducted in our house between the kitchen and the guest room," he told us. My father insisted that we develop a political position, but he did not force us into a particular line. He only demanded that we be true to ourselves, at peace with ourselves."

He admires his father. "He was a unique phenomenon in the Middle East. He was not only a mayor but a great leader. People came from all over Israel to ask

him to solve personal problems, and we met them all at our home." He is working now on publishing a book which will immortalize his father's work.

Jabry's sons have not flinched from public service. Brother Wahid is a member of the Jordanian parliament. He is a businessman who usually lives in Jordan. Brother Rashed is the head of the office of education in Hebron and is, actually, an official of the military rule. Nabil is currently the contingent in the family who is in the Palestinian camp. The three represent the various facets of the complex network of relationships which their father maintained with Jordan, with Israel, and with the Palestinians.

Against the background of the photograph of his father which is permanently hung in his clinic, Nabil is attempting to enter the political arena with a very ambitious statement of intentions. "I see myself not only as a potential mayor but also as a leader. I do not want to hitch a ride on a train going from point A to point B. I want to drive the train myself." Dr Nabil Al-Jabry is not operating in a vacuum. Three groups have been operating recently, and these could join forces if elections were held.

The first are the nationalist groups and Al-Jabry is ready to lead them. In this group are those who call themselves nationalist-patriots, supporters of the PLO. According to the names of those active, it appears that this group brings together supports of various Palestinian organizations, a kind of nationalist unity list. Inscribed on their flag is the slogan of equal rights for citizens, and the long-term goal is national independence.

The pro-Jordanian group, which is riding on the wave of cooperation between Jordan and Israel, is trying to infuse life into the municipal council which was disbanded in 1967 but has continued to function nominally in relation to Jordan. An announcement appeared last week in the newspaper A-NAHAR which said the following: "A delegation from the municipality of Jerusalem is going to Rabat-Amon for the purpose of discussing the salaries of municipal workers, which were frozen in 1968," In the municipality of Jerusalem, this group is considered to be composed of good people who have many wonderful ideas and who are prepared to support plans on a grand scale with financial backing from Jordan. The municipality recently approved the establishment of a new hospital in the city, even though the director general of the municipality admitted that, from the point of view of the number of beds in the existing hospitals, there is no need for a new hospital. "If they feel good going to an Arab doctor, let them do it in good health."

The third group operating in the city at the municipal level is close to the Labor Party. Those active in this group have work ties with the municipality and with various other institutions in the city, but they are not totally in Teddy Killek's pocket. Killek's statement opposing mixed neighborhoods of Jews and Arabs aroused protests among his supporters in Arab neighborhoods.

Those active in all these groups are new faces. They represent a young generation of intellectuals, professionals, many doctors, lawyers, and successful businessmen. The old muhtars and the old traditional leaders are turning their power over to the younger generation.

I asked Al-Jabry if it would not be better, from his perspective, to begin with a much more practical operation: to establish an independent Arab list and compete in the elections of the current municipality. Teddy Killek made his suggestion last week in an interview in A-NAHAR. Al-Jabry dismissed the idea. "Genuine rapprochement between Jews and Arabs can only come about from a position of equality: municipality against municipality. It cannot happen when Arabs are downtrodden and Jews are standing on them."

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BRIEFS

DEFENSE INDUSTRIES IN SLUMP--Israel's defense industries are presently in a slump as far as products produced for the defense system are concerned. So said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a talk before TAQAM activists at Yad Tvenqin Institute in Ramat Eyal. Rabin added: "In our military industry, we are at the point where only 20 percent of production is for the IDF. In the air force, 20 percent of production is for the IDF. In the air force, 20 percent goes for the IDF, 20 percent for the Lavi project, and the rest goes for export. This is an unhealthy situation. This economic system is built in a fragile and delicate way, and it conceals a good deal of turbulence behind a wall of debts." Rabin also said that without defense aid from the United States, our standard of living and our standard of defense could not be what they are today. "The time has come, however, when we must evaluate ourselves nationally in a more accurate way and get a sense of the relationship between what we are exporting and what we are capable of producing." [Article by Barukh Ron] [Text] [TelAviv BAMAHA in Hebrew No 23, 25 Feb 87 p 9] 9348/12232

TWO GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENTS PLANNED--Gush Emunim plans to establish one or two settlements on the West Bank in the next few months with or without the assistance of the government. This decision was made at a session of the movement's council in Jerusalem. HADASHOT was informed that the decision to initiate practical steps came as a result of pressures from representatives of the settlements who were present at the session and it was opposed by the secretariat of the movement. The secretariat proposed taking concrete steps in the summer, but, as was already said, the decision was made to initiate activity immediately. So we can anticipate cat and mouse games on the mountains of Shomron by Passover. [Article by Nadav Ha'Aytzani] [Text] [Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 Feb 87 p 2] 9348/12232

CSO: 4423/21

BRIEFS

LOAN FROM ARAB, FOREIGN BANKS--The government of Jordan signed a \$150 million loan agreement with the Arab Bank and a consortium of foreign banks. The funds will be used to finance development projects under Jordan's 5-year plan which ends 1990. In another development, the government of Jordan has resolved to dig several exploratory oil wells this year at a depth of 5,000 meters as part of an exploration plan that covers several areas of Jordan. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 4 Apr 87 p 30] 12945/12232

CSO: 4404/312

ANNUAL REPORT OF KUWAIT PETROLEUM COMPANY

Kuwait AL-RAY AL-AMN in Arabic 1 Feb 87 period 10

[Text] During fiscal year 1985-86 the Kuwait Petroleum Company was able to realize net profits of 54 million dinars or approximately \$172 million, inspite of the extreme difficulties that confronted the petroleum industry last year throughout the world due to the severe disagreements between the producers, and the slump in petroleum prices.

However, these profits are about 74.2 percent less than the Company's profits in the 1984-85 fiscal year which reached about 209 million Kuwaiti dinars.

In a preface to the sixth annual report of the Company for fiscal year 1985-86 Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Azaby the minister of petroleum and the chairman of the board of the Kuwait Petroleum Company reviewed the complete chaos that predominated the petroleum market during this period and stated that the Company has not lost its ability to adapt quickly to the new circumstances due to the strategy of comprehensiveness, integration and diversification that it has followed since its inception in 1980.

He added that the Company was able, through subjugating its capacities and devoting its potentialities, to serve the Kuwaiti goals and to achieve the petroleum interests of the country with the least possible amount of sacrifice and expense.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah mentioned in the report, which was issued by the Company yesterday, that the most outstanding results that the company succeeded in achieving during this fiscal year were: impeding the negative effect on the level of petroleum revenue collected from production distribution; having its refineries in Kuwait and Europe perform at their maximum productive capacities; and optimally exploiting the distribution outlets that it owns in Europe.

He added that the results also included the guidance of expenditures, reduction of costs, and the deployment of the Company's investment to realize good yields that helped in supporting the outcomes of its operations and to strengthen its financial position in spite of the exceptional burdens that resulted from the tremendous reductions in the value of the stored petroleum products and the crude and gas reserves without affecting the shareholder's equities which increased in value over their value at the end of the previous period.

Strategic Importance

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah explained that the Company whose capital reached 2.5 billion dinars "has made good progress toward enhancing the refining and marketing activities of its subsidiaries that operate in Europe by modernizing some of their productive units and developing its freight and storage facilities in Holland."

He described these activities as "projects of strategic importance in developing marketing means in northwestern Europe." Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah emphasized that the Company "seeks also to expand the supply of aviation fuel to different regions" and said that "the Company continues to implement its investment plans which aim at improving the productivity of its various sectors. The official inauguration of the modernization and new additions projects to Port al-Ahmadi refinery in February of last year was an important benchmark on this route. The first stage of modernization of the refinery at Port 'Abdallah as well as the construction of the new factory to produce salt and chlorine are almost finished."

Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah mentioned that "the first stage of the Iraqi-Kuwait gas pipeline is finished and that pumping the gas on this line has actually started during September 1986."

Regarding the mineral prospecting, exploration drilling and engineering operations activities, the petroleum minister mentioned that "in view of the universal stagnation that enveloped these activities, the Company intensified its program for reducing expenditures and improving the productive efficiency of its companies that perform these activities." He said that "in view of the prevailing circumstances, the Company decided not to expand its new exploration projects and confined its efforts to segments of the existing projects which were declared to be economical." He emphasized that the Company "sought to preserve the competitive capabilities of its drillers. It is also acting to increase the exploitation of the available technical potentialities in the areas of design and engineering services."

Petroleum Products

The report reviewed, in details, the activities of the Company inside and outside Kuwait through the performance of its main subsidiaries which include nine local and international firms.

Regarding the Company's operations abroad, the report indicated that its European subsidiaries were able, during 1985-86 to enhance their refining and marketing activities, thereby insuring the continuation of the progress that was achieved since the fixed assets of Gulf Oil in Europe were acquired.

He said that, in spite of the continuation of the intense competition in the refined petroleum products' market, due to the sharp decline in crude prices, the Company's marketing operations preserved their share of the European markets.

The report added that the Company's share in Belgium has increased due to the possession of 53 new service stations acquired from the French company (Ectien). The Company realized gains in other parts of Europe through the recruitment of highly qualified and experienced distributors, and through the investments to improve the fuel stations.

He mentioned that the Company's refineries in Denmark and Holland were operated at their maximum capacities producing on the average 3,660 barrels of lubricating oil daily in the European refinery.

The report stated that modernization procedures which reduce energy consumption will soon be completed for the lubrication oil unit. Construction work for the project for receiving giant petroleum tankers has begun and is expected to be completed during the first half of next year.

The report also mentioned that the Kuwaiti Company for Research and Technology in Holland has completed an important project to develop and test a large collection of industrial lubricating oils by using the basic oil resulting from the industrialization of the Kuwaiti export crude to which are added the most recent catalytic agents. This oil is made according to the highest modern specifications. Attention was paid to make the product equal to or better than competing oils.

The current report about the activities of the Establishment in the areas of refining and marketing in Europe mentions that the net losses increased from about 110.4 million dinars in 1984 to about 390.6 million dinars during 1985 and the first six months of last year.

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The production of equivalent crude has slightly increased over its level during the previous period.

The report mentioned that the Santa Fe Drilling Company is considered one of the largest drilling companies in the world. It possesses 120 drilling towers, 26 of which are for marine drilling, and 84 for land drilling. The company also owns and operates other drilling towers in partnership with other parties in the North Sea, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and other countries in the world.

The report mentioned the activities of the Santa Fe Brown Engineering Company which performs the design, engineering, and construction of energy-related factories at the international level such as refineries, fertilizer and petrochemical factories. The report indicated that the Company provided its clients with more than 3.5 million working hours in spite of the continuing slump in the energy-related industries.

The report added that the engineering activities of the Company included the project of modernizing port 'Abdallah refinery and the modernization project of the Company's lubricating oil factory in Rotterdam.

Crude Production

The report stated that the production of crude, excluding Al Wafrah production reached during fiscal year 1985-86 about 396.4 million barrels i.e., at the rate of 1.086 million barrels daily which represents an increase of 24.4 percent over its level during the previous period.

The report added that the company received about 24.6 million barrels from the crude produced in Al Wafrah region versus about 26 million barrels in the previous period. This represents a decrease of about 5.4 percent due to the natural decline in the reservoirs' capacity.

The amount of natural gas produced in the fields reached 221.5 billion standard cubic feet i.e., at a rate of 607 million standard cubic feet daily which represents an increase of about 29.5 percent over the previous period.

The report mentioned that the overall volume of crude that was refined in the three refineries reached, during the period, about 214.8 million barrels at a rate of about 588,500 barrels daily which represents an increase of 8.3 percent over the previous period.

Regarding the marketing of crude petroleum, the report indicated that 194 million barrels were exported i.e., a daily average of about 531,500 barrels. This quantity includes the provision of about 192,000 barrels daily to the Company's refineries in Europe in addition to 45,000 barrels daily that were refined for the Company in the Italian refineries.

The report mentioned that the Establishment's exports of liquified petroleum gases reached 1.53 million metric tons which were valued at 62.4 million dinars during 1986 reflecting an increase of about 1.3 million dinars in 1985. Regarding the production and marketing of chemical fertilizers, salt and chlorine which are produced by the Petrochemical Industries Company, the report mentioned that the levels of production of ammonia, and urea have risen to 440,000 and 687,000 metric tons reflecting increases of 6 percent and 16 percent respectively relative to the previous period.

The report said that a state of instability prevailed in the international market of nitrogen fertilizers during the period leading to a decline in the prices of solid and liquid fertilizers by ratios of 20 - 45 percent relative to their levels in the previous period due to several reasons collectively.

The report added that the salt and chlorine factories realized good results during the period. The quantities sold reached 17,700 metric tons versus 22,700 metric tons during the previous period.

The current report for the Petrochemical Industries Company stated that the total losses carried over have risen from about 8.8 million dinars in 1985 to about 19.6 million Kuwaiti dinars. Regarding the marine transportation operation carried out by the Kuwaiti Petroleum Tankers Company, the report said that the decline in crude prices due to the increase in supply during the period encouraged the consuming countries to increase their stored petroleum. This had a great effect on vitalizing the demand for the transportation operations thereby improving freight fees over their previous levels.

The report added that the Company's 22 tankers performed their roles as usual in spite of the tensions prevailing in the Gulf as a result of the air raids against the tankers.

The report mentioned that the marine fleet transported about 7.4 million metric tons of petroleum products and 1.2 million metric tons of liquified petroleum gases during fiscal year 1985-86.

The current report of the Company mentions that it has realized 7 million Kuwaiti dinars in 1986 representing an increase of about 2 million dinars over 1985.

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SENIOR LEBANESE FORCES OFFICIAL CRITICIZES SYRIAN ARMED PRESENCE

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 4 Apr 87 pp 25, 26

[Interview with Lebanese Forces foreign relations official Qusayr Nasr by Mayy 'Abbud: "The Lebanese-Syrian Summit Will Not Be the Magic Wand"]

[Text] The former minister Dr Qusayr Nasr occupies the position of chief of the "foreign relations agency" in the Lebanese Forces. By diplomatic convention, this is the equivalent of the position of the minister of foreign affairs. He is also member of the Lebanese "presidential" delegation which is in charge of the dialogue with Syria concerning the sections of the intra-Lebanese agreement to end the war and turn over a leaf of peace and construction for the "country of the future." The subjects of this dialogue will also address themselves to the section on "distinctive relations" with Syria -- a subject which was one of the basic elements that led to the opposition on the part of the Lebanese Forces, the office of the president and the other Christian leaders to the trilateral Damascus agreement last year and to its demise. This interview with Dr Nasr will illuminate the forces' positions on these matters and will illuminate many facets of the Lebanese crisis and approaches that will lead to their solution from the point of view of the group Dr Qusayr Nasr represents:

[Question] Our first question, of course, is related to the subject of the Syrian-Lebanese summit. Is there coordination between President Amin al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese forces in this regard?

[Answer] There is no doubt that President al-Jumayyil is anxious to have Christian decisionmaking include all the existing political forces, since he is the president, that is, must be the president, of every group with a physical presence. This is what the president himself believes and it negates his affiliation with a specific group or reference to a specific group with respect to his decisions. The decisions the president is making today are not the decisions of the president in every sense of the word. The constitution permits him to make pacts with countries without restriction and then submit them to the chamber of deputies for ratification. These are among his powers. However, today he is in a situation different from that and everyone is vying with him on the subject of his powers and his legitimacy. The proof of that is the "trilateral agreement," how it was set out in his

absence and three persons set it out after arrogating legitimate authority to themselves, that is, the heads of the militias that had a physical presence. They made an agreement Syria took part in setting out and tried to impose it but it did not, however, survive, because there are forces in being which rejected it and an uprising took place, in every meaning of the word, against those who signed it, because it did not satisfy all the Christians. The president is a mature man and he knows that if his position is to be strong he must win over the majority of the Christians, I do not say all of them. Therefore, he has to coordinate with them and consult with them.

[Question] In the rounds of negotiation which preceded the summit, was there a working paper on which agreement and consultation took place between the government and the forces?

[Answer] The president is in contact with all persons involved in the matter, the patriarch, the Vatican and the Lebanese Forces. There are meetings which are held with officials in the Lebanese Forces to conduct a dialogue regarding the issues which have been set out at present, prior to the summit.

One must not believe that the summit will end with a "solution." The negotiations that are taking place now are paving the way for specific agreements which will be given permanent legitimacy in specific contexts.

Coordination with the forces is going on and is continuing, of course. As I said before, one must not anticipate that the summit will be a "magic wand" solving all problems. The problems are numerous and intractable. Perhaps the summit will lead to a resumption of dialogue, an entree to dialogue with Syria and the possibility of a council of ministers meeting and perhaps a change of cabinet in the best of cases.

The summit will not bear up under what they are imposing on it. It is a culmination of the activities, negotiations and conversations which are taking place now.

[Question] That is, it will not support solutions?

[Answer] With respect to domestic reforms, it will. The subjects of discussion for the most part are connected to domestic reforms and the issue of participation in government, the structure of the council of ministers, ways of appointing prime ministers, the grant of decisionmaking status to the Shiites, the elimination of factionalism and all the subjects the two Lausanne and Geneva conferences dealt with. There is no doubt that it is a difficult matter, but it will come up with solutions. These solutions are domestic ones, ones which deal with participation. However, they are not the basic point. If the Lebanese are left to themselves, they will reach the same solutions and perhaps better ones, while Syria need not intervene to turn over a new leaf in Lebanon.

The problem goes far beyond that, and no one is unaware of this. It is a war on Lebanese soil among the countries of the region, and perhaps countries more remote than the regional ones. The war between the Shiites and Libya is

going on here. The war between France and America and Iran is here, and the war between the Palestinians and Syria -- Lebanese territory is the stage for wars dictated by regional solutions. I do not believe that if the number of deputies increases and they are then apportioned in two ways or three ways, or if the officials of the first group divide up positions without stipulations, the problem will be solved. If the summit succeeds and yields results, will the economic issue be resolved and the dollar drop? Will the issue of security relations with Israel be resolved? Israel is present on the borders and on Lebanese territory. It has withdrawn from one area and has remained in another in order to guarantee the security of upper Galilee along the northern borders. Can Israel be a witness to a Lebanese-Syrian resolution without getting anything? That's not reasonable. Therefore a country in the region cannot turn a new leaf regarding the security issue and guarantee the Lebanese peace by itself. Syria can "create a mess" but it cannot guarantee a complete Lebanese peace, nor can Israel do so either. A kind of international agreement must exist on making progress in the Middle East issue, of which is the Palestine cause, which constitutes a basic element in the Lebanese problem, embodied in the presence of 400,000 Palestinians on Lebanese territory, is a part. If you take their age pyramid you will find that no less than 60 percent of them are under 30, that is, 60 percent of them are combatants.

[Question] That brings us to the accusation which holds that the Lebanese Forces are bringing the Palestinian fighting men who left in 1982 back through the port of Juniyah.

[Answer] That is a false statement. I was the first person intensively to condemn the Israeli action which took place when the vessel Empress transporting Lebanese passengers from Cyprus was detained. There is something which everyone must know: First of all, the Palestinians were coming into Lebanon via Beirut airport.

[Question] In the presence of the AMAL movement and the Syrian forces?

[Answer] Before the Syrians were present. However, when AMAL is present you know the bribery and how great an effect it has, with a dollar that seeks bribes, whatever they might be.

Secondly, they were coming in through the ports of Khaldah and Sidon. Therefore they do not need to pass through Juniyah. Let us assume that they are coming in through the port of Juniyah -- how could they pass over to the Western section, especially since their numbers are in the hundreds?

When a vessel comes that is loaded with Lebanese, it is one of the simplest things to discover and determine the foreigners on board it. There are statistics which state that over a period of 6 months, out of 65,000 passengers, 300 foreigners have come to Lebanon, of all nationalities. I am anxious that you fully realize that we in the Lebanese Forces consider the Palestinians on our territory to be aliens and they have destroyed our territory enough so that we will not take pity on them and sympathize with them, or go along with their cause.

[Question] Let us go back a little to the summit. What has changed since the tripartite agreement? What atmosphere is it that has made Syria go back to initiating the dialogue with President al-Jumayyil?

[Answer] Syria has confirmed that the allies to whom it assigned the business of making progress on the problems failed in the task, principally the heads of the militias, Jumblatt, Birri and Hubayqah. They made the tripartite agreement and it was rejected.

Second, they tried to strike at the Christian areas through regular terrorist activities and paralyze life in them, then strike at the Lebanese economy and other things, 12 years ago. None of this worked, and the allies themselves were not "up to the campaign" to solve the problems. Syria considered that to the contrary things were becoming complicated more than they were registering progress, because an organization for terrorist groups and militias had acquired a physical presence and they had become stronger and more effective with their systems, pyramidal structures and budgets in effecting control and in carrying out terrorist operations, conspiring and committing aggression. Syria considered that it could not intervene in any form unless the legitimate authorities were on its side. That is the basic thing, in my view, that is, that the non-legitimate allies could not create a solution. They tried first of all to remove President al-Jumayyil, and they failed. Then they tried to dismiss him, and again they failed. [Former] President Franjiyah called him "the sick man." They also tried to dismiss the whole cabinet and the president along with it. Every time, they came up against a fact: the president would not be budged. The fact is that the president in Lebanon will fall only if all the Christians are against him, even when all the Moslems are with him. The presidency in Lebanon is a symbol more than it is a matter of authority, essentially. It symbolizes a government in which there is a free Christian presence and if the Christian presence does not have its say, there will be no more to the story.

[Question] It is now said that Washington has given Syria the green light to resume the dialogue and initiate a solution to the Lebanese crisis. What is your view?

[Answer] Syria does not need a green light from America. America can give Lebanon the green light and encourage Christian Lebanon to hold a dialogue with Syria, because it is the former that is refusing, since basically it has rejected the trilateral agreement -- and at this point things have stopped. If Syria requests relations which will respect the privileges of the government, no one will oppose it. We have said this more than once: We are in favor of fraternal, sympathetic relations, good neighborliness, with Syria, on condition that that not infringe on the essence of sovereignty. That is the basic matter.

[Question] If the summit takes place, agreement is made between Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad, and the forces are not in favor, what in your opinion will happen?

[Answer] I believe that the president and the forces are effecting coordination in a manner where everything the president gives he will give of his

full personal will. The president is the one who said "no" to Syria at the 11th summit, and no one applied force or pressure on him.

[Question] It is well known that the forces have presented a plan for a solution. Do they consider it a minimum? If it is not adopted will they make a mess of everything else?

[Answer] The forces' plan is a political one and they are aware that every plan is subject to discussion, not a divine revelation. The Christian initiative was presented previously as a draft solution, and it did not progress, because of some circumstances which kept it from being discussed. Today, the forces have presented principles for a solution, including, for example, a basic thing, the scheduling of the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, and that of all the other armies. We consider -- and this is the point over which we differ with Syria -- that it considers itself a sister of Lebanon's and that it is not an army of occupation.

Syria is present on the territory of Lebanon with its army, but it would not be happy, for example, with a Jordanian army on its territory, or an Iraqi one. The Syrian army in Lebanon is therefore an alien one. The justifications for its presence are Israel's failure to withdraw. Israel is alien to Lebanon and its army is an army of occupation. If we ask Israel to withdraw, it will say, "You have to guarantee my borders and at that point we are prepared to withdraw." Why shouldn't Syria agree that something similar to what happened in Golan, that is, the Syrian-Israeli borders, happen with our borders? The Golan agreement is considered as a first step along the road to a just, lasting peace.

Israel will not occupy Lebanon if Syria withdraws from it, and this is certain. Let Syria withdraw first of all, or schedule its withdrawal. At that point, we will ask Israel to schedule its withdrawal and leave our territories. We cannot test Israel's intentions until Syria provides us with the justification necessary to impress it on Israel, internationally and before world public opinion, that no justification exists for its failure to withdraw.

We are asking for something basic, which is a goodwill initiative on Syria's part, scheduled over a period of time, for instance 6 months, a year, 2 years, under the cover of legitimacy, because the Syrian presence was no longer legitimate once President Sarkis, at the Fez conference, asked the League of Arab States to restrict the Syrian presence in Lebanon as Syrian deterrent forces in September 1982.

In addition, President al-Jumayyil, on 31 March 1983, dissolved the Lebanese deterrent forces' command council and the Lebanese officers left them and returned to their positions in the Lebanese army. Therefore, they were no longer subject to the legitimate Lebanese authorities.

They also say that their presence is necessary for security requirements, whereas the opposite is true. Security is nonexistent in the areas where they have been present for 10 years. The Syrian presence has become a problem in itself in Lebanon.

[Question] Some people have considered that the Sumar Jubayl meeting between President al-Jumayyil and the former presidents is a quantum leap by which President al-Jumayyil can override the forces on the Christian stage and monopolize Christian decisionmaking. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I do not believe that President al-Jumayyil maneuvers so naively. Since the monopolization of Christian decisionmaking starting 15 January, and the elimination of the trilateral agreement, it has been understood in the whole Christian community, and the president specifically has insisted, that there is no longer a monopolization or exclusive hold on Christian decisionmaking. The president cannot go to Sumar Jubayl to override the forces, and he knows that when he leaves Sumar Jubayl the forces will be present in the rest of the territory and he will not go there anytime he wants. This is something that is well known and understood. There are basic options, and [Former] President Franjiyah has an unobjectionable Christian sense and Maronite sense when he is given the freedom. He proved this at the Geneva conference and he knows and appreciates the degree of importance of the Maronite presence in Lebanon. The meeting was one of conciliation. Violent attacks occurred against the president and they were not tolerated in the European framework or internationally by world public opinion. The president is also going to a summit, and the support for him must be cohesive in the Christian context. For this reason he held the meeting and just received a personal reprimand. The points which were discussed were just points of internal reform and the views were uniform.

[Question] In your capacity as chief of foreign relations in the forces, how can one describe your relations with the Arab countries?

[Answer] To put it frankly, relations with the Arab countries are carried out not on the diplomatic level but on the level of direct personal contacts between the command of the forces and the Arab countries. There is no doubt that we have direct contacts on the level of emissaries with some countries like Egypt, Morocco, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, since there are no embassies, except for the embassy of Egypt. There is a plan which we will initiate, which is contacts on the official level with the Arab countries.

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CSO: 4404/316

SYRIA SETS CONDITIONS FOR EXTENDING SECURITY PLAN TO SOUTH

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 4-10 Apr 87 p 16

[Article: "Damascus Sets out Three Conditions as a Price for the Entry of Its Troops into the Southern Suburbs of Beirut: A Security Freeze and Political Provocation in Anticipation of Surprises"]

[Text] A former Lebanese prime minister has described the security plan carried out in the Western section of Beirut as "one that is booby-trapped and surrounded with explosives connected to timers." He said that any explosion to which it is subjected will be contingent on the decision of some bodies which have been damaged by the role Damascus is assuming. These are multinational international, regional and local bodies. However, the tendency among the countries making the decisions at present is to make a truce with Syria and wait for what it offers as far as the treatment of delicate, sensitive matters goes, foremost among them the issue of the hostages and the coverage of the southern suburbs by the security plan.

Although some bodies consider that the struggle between Damascus and Tehran has become an open one on the Lebanese stage, and, in its depth, goes beyond a dispute over a security plan and a means for dealing with the Hizballah to become a difference in views on developments in the Gulf war, some politicians find that Syria has not retreated from the plans it had made for its entry and from the goal it had in mind. However, in its book timing played a basic part and it has been proficient at that. AL-TADAMUN has learned from informed sources that the discussions Iran's interior minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi carried out with senior Syrian officials were not at all positive, contrary to what the statements by Mohtashemi and the comments of the major papers in Tehran tried to portray. However, the negative character which marked the Iranian official's discussions in Damascus did not prevent the two parties from reaching agreement on continuing consultation, trying to keep the atmosphere flexible and attempting to skirt any clash between them and avoid turning what has happened in Beirut into grounds for a dispute which will put an end to the firm bonds which link them.

However, people with expertise on the Islamic situation do not rule out of their calculations the possibility of a clash between Syria and Iran starting in Beirut, in the suburbs specifically, although a Western diplomatic

source views the probable confrontation from a different angle and considers that Syria is not thinking of staying away from the southern suburbs but is anxious to learn the price it will receive before it completes its security plan. Damascus realizes that the suburbs are a precious catch and that they are wanted by more than one international and regional party. Damascus cannot offer this head on a silver platter free of charge without collecting a price politically, morally and perhaps in security terms that is equivalent in terms of importance. In the suburbs, the fundamentalists are infiltrating and hostages may be detained in one of its sections. The Palestinian camps rise up around them. This means that all the mines in the scheme for the explosion have been planted in the territory of the suburbs and that the process of removing them will be high in cost. The party undertaking this operation is adamant about imposing its conditions on those who may be involved with it.

The same source considers that the al-Basta incident which cost the lives of 23 Hizballah personnel was a sample or a message sent by Damascus to the West to make it understand that Syria's arms can reach out to any group on the Lebanese and Islamic stage, no matter what its regional and international ramifications might be.

A Western diplomat says that in exchange for its agreement to have the security plan cover the southern Suburbs, Syria has imposed the condition of attainment of the following:

1. The West must review its recent positions regarding Damascus and not view it as a country that is assuming a negative role in the international and regional contexts.
2. The West, especially Washington, London and Bonn, must relinquish the diplomatic restrictions it has imposed on Syria in recent months, in circumstances whose concomitant conditions and details are well known.
3. A review must be made of the issue of the reduction in financial and economic aid to Damascus, a policy the West began and one which occurred in conjunction with the diplomatic restrictions it imposed. Before all else, Syria is demanding recognition of a distinctive political security role in Lebanon of the capitals which make decisions in the international and regional context. Thus, the suburbs appear to be a card for applying pressure which Syria is brandishing and trying to use in political and media investments to support its position and win advanced positions for it in the Middle East framework.

Alongside the "boobytrapped" security situation, the political situation seems likely to endure in the form of haggling and shuttle trips on the part of the Lebanese negotiating team, now that the political tone has started heightening again in a way reminiscent of the tone which dominated the situation in the wake of the 6 February 1984 incidents, especially since government sources are observing that Damascus is supporting the demands of the Islamic "five-party" meeting and providing these demands with a protective cover of support. While President Hafiz al-Asad is asserting that the solution to the Lebanese issue "must not go beyond the boundaries of Lebanon and

Syria," Dr Samir Ja'ja', the commander of the Lebanese Forces, said in a speech he made before a French parliamentary delegation that the forces consider that the solution will lie in the adoption of political decentralization, the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from all of Lebanon and their replacement by international forces.

In addition to that, there is Christian consensus on rejecting everything that will in effect constitute an infringement on the powers of the president. Total coordination exists among Ba'abda, Bakraki and the Lebanese Front on this subject in confronting an increasingly hard line on the part of Damascus' allies on the Islamic stage, who consider that balance in the executive power can occur only by defining the powers of the president and wresting some of them away from him.

However, the heated political atmosphere has not eliminated a matter of the utmost importance, which is that the continuation of the dialogue, no matter how long it may go on, and the recourse to negotiations which must not be broken off get priority.

Thus the military freeze and the political tide will continue, but the door is open to many surprises of all kinds.

11887
CSO: 4404/316

BRIEFS

LABOR MIGRATION TO JORDAN INCREASES--Some Lebanese industrialists are beginning to complain about the migration of labor to a new Arab country like Lebanon which, never imported labor but rather exported it. They say that Jordan is beginning to attract skilled labor, especially in the clothing industry, because of the decline in the value of the lira. A worker now earns about 400 Jordanian dinars, the equivalent of 120,000 Lebanese liras, compared to salaries of between 7,000 and 10,000 liras in Lebanon. If such a worker were to save only 50 dinars, he still could send his family some 15,000 liras, almost double his salary in Lebanon. Industrialists fear that if the current monetary situation in Lebanon persists, it could cause a drain of all skilled workers, leaving only ordinary workers who can't meet production requirements. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 4 Apr 87 p 30] 12945/12232

CSO: 4404/312

COMMERCIAL TIES WITH BRITAIN EXTREMELY STRONG

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 25-31 Mar 87 pp 34, 35

[Interview with Saudi commercial attache Salih al-Shaybani by AL-MAJALLAH in London; date not specified]

[Text] At a time when world exports to the Saudi market shrank, the British were conspicuous for their ability to increase the volume of exports to Saudi Arabia last year. The Saudi commercial attache in London Salih al-Shaybani talked to AL-MAJALLAH about commercial activity between Saudi Arabia and Britain. He said British businessmen were not dissuaded by grim forecasts of the oil markets and by what was said concerning the sensitivity of Saudi purchasing power to the decline oil revenues, judging by the fact that their exports increased over the preceding period. This confirms the importance of the size and dynamism of the Saudi market.

As for the nature of British exports to Saudi Arabia, the commercial attache says there are several categories. Indeed, Britain is first in several of them. In addition to cigarettes, the largest category, which amounted to 321.4 million Saudi riyals in 1985, there were airplane engines valued at 307 million riyals in the same year. Prescription drugs totaled 285 riyals. Al-Shaybani points out that Britain exports more drugs to Saudi Arabia than any other country since they increased over American and Swiss exports in 1984 and 1985. In fact, the margin of British superiority in this respect widened in 1984, amounting to 81.5 million in the following year.

Britain Leads in Exporting Drugs

As for cigarettes, Britain was first among the countries exporting tobacco to the Saudi markets in 1984. However, the United States gained first place in 1985 when it shipped to Saudi Arabia cigarettes valued at 497.3 million riyals.

Regarding the position of British exports on the scale of Saudi imports, the commercial attache says the British obviously managed to achieve only a slight increase in their share of goods shipped to the Saudi market in 1985. It is nevertheless important because it enabled Britain to progress from sixth to fifth place after Japan, United States, Italy, and West Germany due to the fact that British exports to Saudi Arabia rose from 5.8 percent in 1984 to 6.15 percent in 1985.

On British exports to Saudi Arabia, al-Shaybani presented a report showing that British statistics for the period from 1 January 1986 to 30 November 1986 confirm the importance of the following categories:

- Transportation equipment and devices- 343.6 million pounds;
- Machines for power generation- 219.9 million pounds;
- Drugs and pharmaceutical products- 66.2 million pounds;
- Chemicals and chemical products- about 60 million pounds;
- Grains and grain products- 57.5 million pounds.

Unclassified Products

We asked the commercial attache about tourism from Saudi Arabia to Britain in the volume of commercial exchange between the two countries. He says tourism is regarded as an invisible form of exchange that is a natural part of the relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia. Tourism, he added, is particularly important because of the large number of Saudi tourists visiting Britain and helping by their presence to increase the volume of British imports from foreign currencies.

Concerning unclassified British exports to Saudi Arabia, he says that consulting services constitute a large part of them. Companies providing these services have played a prominent role in the sectors dealing with water, pipelines, electricity, and Saudi agriculture. Britain's prominent position in providing technical knowledge can be said to be consistent with the main goal of development strategy in Saudi Arabia, namely, development of human resources by means of training and instruction.

Role of Mixed Companies

As for mixed companies, i.e., those founded with both Saudi and British capital, al-Shaybani says that recent figures put out by the Saudi Ministry of Industry and Electricity reveal that there are more than 160 such companies, about 40 of them registered within companies participating in industrial projects. Commenting on mixed companies, the Saudi commercial attache said there are few countries trading with Saudi Arabia that have succeeded to date in forming such a large number of mixed companies. Companies of this kind help to create a strong foundation for the development of relations in the future. Hence the strategy of the fourth development plan (1985-1990) for industry and production will provide greater scope and new opportunities for mixed projects.

Saudi Exports to Britain

The Saudi commercial attache says that Saudi exports consist mostly of oil and petroleum products. British government figures from the January-November period show that the value of Saudi exports (oil, petroleum products, mineral) amounted to 247 million pounds out of the total Saudi exports of about 388 million pounds in the same period.

Recalling the history of commercial ties between the two countries, al-Shaybani says they changed significantly in recent years. The trade balance shifted in favor of Britain after Saudi Arabia began to use it in its own interest at the end of the 1970s and beginning of the 1980s. The

reason for the shift, says al-Shaybani, is that Britain managed to achieve self-sufficiency in oil and improve its market for providing services and exporting technology. He adds that the trade balance witnessed a marked rise in 1979, 1980, and 1981 due mainly to Saudi exports aimed at the British market, and there was a large surplus. However, the surplus was transformed into a deficit in 1982 for the reasons previously mentioned.

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CSO: 4404/296

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MILITARY EXAMINED

How al-Asad Remains in Power

Tel Aviv BAMAHAANE in Hebrew No 21, 11 Feb 87 pp 2-3

[Articles by Haim Raviv, Lieutenant Aharon, and Lieutenant Colonel Mike: "Economic Austerity" and "The Secret of al-Asad's Continued Reign"]

[Text] The average Syrian citizen, who suffers the most from the crisis, is living in a state of agitation and has difficulty seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

In the speech made by the president of Syria marking the end of 16 years in power, he announced that his country is not in an economic crisis, but rather in...economic difficulty. As one who represents a totalitarian regime, al-Asad has difficulty, it appears, admitting shortcomings and failures. With doubt, Syria is wallowing in a deep economic crisis. The proof lies in various phenomena, such as decreased per-capita income, lack of investment in the economy, a standstill in the area of popular welfare, and growing inflation. Another blatant characteristic is dwindling foreign currency reserves. Recently published data show that the reserves have already passed the "danger point" and stand today at approximately \$100 million (Israel's currency reserves, by way of comparison, are at \$3 billion).

The economic crisis is apparent both in the street and within the administration: the black market and corruption are blossoming, the scope of smuggling is widening and the public engages increasingly in tax evasion. This and more: given the government's strong control over the economy and the serious shortage of foreign currency for importing goods, people in the private sector are dealing in illegal imports from neighboring countries, such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and others. Bitterness prevails among the Syrian population. The average citizen cannot finish the month. Serious shortages are often experienced in the market—shortages of basic goods like rice, meat, coffee, milk, bread, fruits, and vegetables. Due to difficulties in the supply of gasoline and electricity, the populace suffers from strict rationing. Given the housing crisis, young couples are forced to delay marriage or live with their parents (the price of housing has soared and is beyond the reach of the average couple).

Several factors have joined to drive the Syrian economy into a crisis:

--The central factor hinges on the current budget (with the exception of arms acquisition); a marked increase in Syria's defense expenditures followed the Galilee Peace War in 1982. (See "An Army Without Cutbacks," page 10).

--An additional factor is the severe cutbacks in the scope of financial aid from the rich Arab countries.

--Another factor is the depression that has prevailed over the past few years in the world oil market and which has brought about a sharp decrease in the price of oil (until recently, oil was Syria's principal export).

--Added to these are 4 years of severe drought that have ravaged the land and damaged grain crops in particular (agriculture in Syria is based mainly on field crops).

--Low production levels due to problems with the infrastructure and maintenance as well as a shortage of professional manpower have also played a part in the crisis.

In the context of its efforts to deal with the economic crisis, the Syrian regime is adopting a policy of economic restraint, which is expressed in the imposition of strict limitations on imports, budget cutbacks in government ministries (except for the defense budget), and reductions in development. All these steps, however, have not yet sufficed to stop the degeneration.

The current difficult economic situation is not a passing phenomenon. In coming years, Syria will continue to struggle with serious economic distress. The problem of subsidizing imports will continue to be the main issue affecting the Syrian economy in the absence of stable foreign currency resources. The crisis in Syria's relationship with the West, against the background of Syria's involvement in various terrorist activities, reduces, at this point, the possibility of relying on loans from Western countries to lessen the sting of distress which most of the Syrian people are suffering. The loans help supply essential goods to markets within the country.

It appears that the Syrian regime prefers the flag of military strength to the flag of economic welfare, and as long as Syria continues to budget such large resources to what it calls the building of a "strategic balance," it will be difficult for the Syrian people to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

A combination of forceful measures and a centralized government network with a policy of suppression and indoctrination, in addition to dominant and cruel personal leadership, at least partially explains an unusual phenomenon in Syria's history--the relative stability of al-Asad's regime, soon to mark the end of its 16th year.

For the last 20 years, the Syrian government has been in the hands of Alawite rulers, starting with Tsalah Jadid (1966-70) and later Hafiz al-Asad. This fact is not a historical coincidence. Members of the Alawite sect, who throughout Syria's long history have been marked by feelings of unity and denial, have, since Syria received its independence, been looking for ways to gain power and

influence in the Syrian political system. Many of them found their way into the ranks of the army and the Ba'th Party, with its secular ideology, seeing in these networks a means to advance despite their ethnic origins. When the government was seized by the Ba'th Party in 1962, the road was paved for members of the Alawite minority to rise to power. The image of the regime in Syria is one of fundamental socio-political problems plaguing al-Asad's regime. Despite his efforts to present an external image of the nonethnic or superethnic regime, he has not been able to cover up its real coloration, although there is no small number of Sunnis within the regime's leadership holding respected positions such as minister of defense and chief of staff. However, almost all positions of real power, i.e., key positions essential to the defense of the regime and its survival, are concentrated in the hands of Alawites. The high and powerful heads of the defense-interior services in Syria are Alawites. The high and powerful heads of the defense-interior services in Syria are Alawites. Likewise are most of the senior officers in the Syrian army.

This state of affairs constitutes a source of unrest and instability in Syria, whereby many among the Sunni majority have difficulty being reconciled with the fact that they are ruled by a small minority who are not even seen in their eyes as Moslems at all.

Internal unrest and instability stand as a backdrop to the organization of the "Muslim Brotherhood," the main opposition to the Alawite regime in Syria, and to the many upheavals and shocks that have rocked the country over the last decade. The opposition tried to incite internal upheavals and bring the Sunni public to a large-scale popular uprising in the hope of toppling the regime. (See the article on this page, "Enemy at Home). However, despite the instability, al-Asad has succeeded in maintaining his rule. There are several important reasons for his success:

--The image of al-Asad, which stands out in the Syrian political network as a superior and inspiring personality (see article on page 1).

--The concretization of a stable and experienced ruling elite, operating in realtive harmony, out of deep personal loyalty to al-Asad. It is an established elite group based on internal balances. Asad, for his part, has been careful not to name a "number two" or a successor. In this group are figures such as Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khadam, Minister of Defense Mustafa Talas, Chief of Staff Hikmat Shihabi (Sunnis), and the heads of the defense networks for the army and airforce--Muhammad al-Khuli and 'Ali Dubav--who are considered to be highly powerful (Alawites). Until recently, the president's brother, Rif'at Asad, who commanded the "Defense Companies," was also counted within this group. His excessive ambition has caused him to be held at arm's length. Although he still holds the formal title of vice president, for the last 2 years he has spent most of his time abroad, in a sort of forced exile, and he awaits the opportunity to return to Syria and take the regime into his own hands.

--The development of strong and loyal elements of force. Asad relies on an extensive network of internal defense forces, which ensure supervision and control over sensitive focal points of power in Syria and over all aspects of public life in the country. The defense bodies have a special stance in Syria and

constitute the "watch dog" of the regime. However, to supervise sensitive focal points of his regime, and to avoid any uprisings against him, Asad also uses units within the regular army.

--The ruling network in Syria is centralized to an unparalleled degree. The regime maintains close supervision over all facets of public life, and all roads in the end lead to President Asad. He is the supreme decisionmaking authority around whom all threads are embroidered.

--An unrelenting policy of oppression and denial. The regime allows criticism of government offices in the economic, social, and services sectors but prohibits categorically any criticism directed toward the president himself or regarding foreign policy and national security. Any evidence of such criticism or any hint of an organized opposition is squelched mercilessly and with a hard hand.

--An unrelenting and intensive indoctrination campaign, in a move to firm up popular support for the regime, in the areas of both foreign policy (principally on the subject of the struggle against Israel) and internal affairs (in the spirit of Baht Party principals).

Destroying the power of the "Muslim Brotherhood" in Hama in 1982 allowed the regime a period of relative internal peace. At the end of 1983, the regime suffered a major upheaval. Al-Asad became ill and temporarily lost his ability to function. This created a power struggle at the top. At the center of the struggle were his brother Rif'at Asad and most of the other upper-echelon figures. This struggle had reached the point of violence when, in the end, Asad regained his strength and took the reins of his regime back into his own hands, bringing stability back to the elite circle by neutralizing his brother. Today, it appears that Asad is functioning as usual and ruling as in the old days. However, it should not be forgotten that he is plagued with a fundamental weakness of health to which he may suddenly succumb, an eventuality which would open the door for a fight over a successor.

Last year, Asad found himself forced to grapple with two central internal problems. One is related to the renewed organization of the Muslim Brotherhood," which came back to deal blows in Syria. The second is related to serious economic crisis, which creates unrest and distress among the Syrian populace. Only time will tell if the current Syrian regime will succeed over the long term in overcoming its internal challenges.

[Box, p 3]

Haim Raviv: Commando Guard

One of the forces defending the security of the Syrian regime is undoubtedly that of the commandos. Thus, for example, this force protects crucial installations--civilian and military--throughout Syria, such as government offices, radio and television stations, refineries, airports, and the like. But it is not just an element of enforcement or, if you will, the "watchdog" of the regime. This force is also considered a tough fighting nucleus, with strong motivation, that

prefers to fight to the death rather than surrender. The Syrian commandos are considered, along with the paratroops, part of what are called in Syria the "special forces." Asad's regime is proud of these forces and describes them as the best in the Middle East. The Syrian commando soldiers are volunteers, mostly members of the Alawite sect. To be recruited they must demonstrate physical ability and loyalty to the regime. During their service, they go through exercises designed to make them superior soldiers. Since the Yom Kippur War, there has been a marked increase in the scope of commando units in the Syrian army, not just in their number but in quality. [see article on page 15)

Human Factors of Armed Forces

Tel Aviv BAMAHAHE in Hebrew No 21, 11 Feb 87 p 10

[Articles by Brigadier General (Reserves) Aharon Levran, Haim Raviv, and Captain Hagi: "The Defense Burden Begins To Take Its Toll" and "The Human Component"]

[Text] Defense expenditures in Syria are very high. In 1985, they amounted to approximately \$3.2 billion, without arms acquisitions. These expenditures constituted 30 percent of the total Syrian budget that year, which stood at \$11 billion, but relative to the current budget (without devaluation and debt repayments), they constitute an even heavier burden (greater than 50 percent). Relative to the national budget (1984 calculations), these expenditures accounted for approximately 15,5 percent, all this at a time when aid from the Arab oil countries continues to drop due to decreased income from oil and the need to support Iraq in its war against Iran. As opposed to more than \$1.8 billion, as promised to Syria in the context of "Baghdad Aid," the total aid amounted to approximately \$1 billion in 1984. This sum would have been even less if Libya has not joined the circle of countries aiding Syria, and if it were not for the Iranian aid which was supplied entirely in oil, amounting to the equivalent of approximately \$200-300 million a year. Thus the Syrian economy as a whole is in a crisis, which expresses itself in the foreign currency balance.

Against this background, the question is asked: To what degree does the Syrian defense burden affect national resources, and to what extent can these resources be used to support the process of strengthening the army? The answer, of course, is not simple. However, it may be said that as a country with absolute totalitarian characteristics and an underdeveloped economy, the defense burden is not such that it is unsupportable from the point of view of national resources or from the point of view of endangering the stability of the regime. The economic difficulties and reduced foreign aid have not thus far impacted on Syrian defense expenditures. There have been no indications of planned military cutbacks in manpower and the budget. In fact, the opposite is true: The Syrian budget increased nominally in 1986.

The burden of defense expenditures has begun to make itself felt since the beginning of this year, 1987, and is expressed in Syrian defense plans for cutting back, to some degree, the active forces, as we were told this week by the minister of defense.

The Syrian hierarchy admits a heavy defense burden--against the background of falling Arab aid and an economy in distress--but defense remains a high priority, as is the goal of achieving the long-awiated strategic balance with Israel. In other words, the defense burden does not constitute, at this point, a compelling factor that is either too heavy or too insufferable for the regime. Notwithstanding, it is reasonable to assume that over time (unless the above considerations change), it will be difficult to maintain the same level of defense expenditures with the same national resources from the point of view of manpower and funds. It appears, therefore, that the emphasis in coming years will be on the existing mix and certain improvements in quality at the expense of a quantitative growth in forces and supplies. (See article on "Absorbition and Assimilation" on the next page.)

The Syrian army is large by international standards. Its forces number 800,000 --half in the regular army, the rest in the reserves. But quantity does not, it is known, necessarily mean quality. The telling factor in the Syrian army is the level of the people and the professionalism of its soldiers and line officers.

In Syria, there is a conscription law, according to which every youth at age 19 who is not physically or emotionally impaired must enlist. According to this law, the soldier is obligated to serve a 2 and 1/2-year stint, but in fact, his release is delayed and he serves an additional period, the length of which is determined by the level of his education. The lower his education, the longer he serves. Before enlistment and during his service, the soldier is given a large helping of nationalistic education. In every military unit a "political agent" representing the ruling party is stationed, whose role it is to "brain-wash" the soldiers and line officers and to ensure their allegiance to the party and to the regime. The Syrian recruitment network has established a division of recruitment groups that separates, in effect, the educated from the uneducated.

--The group lacking education includes elementary school graduates (six grades) those lacking a formal education (who studied a few years in school and know how to read and write), and a small group of illiterates. Soldiers from this group are recruited at least twice a year. The schedule of their recruitment is coordinated with the army's needs and, in particular, with the annual training scheduled in the branches.

--The educated recruits are destined from the start, based on their education, to be junior ranking commanders in the various branches, and they receive training accordingly. (On officer's training, see the next page.)

[Box, p 10]

Women in the Career Army

Women in Syria are exempt from conscription, but they may volunteer for the career army. An important step in the integration of women was taken at the beginning of the 1980's, when the officer training school and the Asad Military Academy were opened to women seeking to serve as officers in the army. Female officers serve in administrative roles, technical positions, and the medical field.

Aside from career officers, there is also an excessively broad group of career NCO's. A significant portion of this group comes from the Alawite minority. Their number in the army is considerably greater than their relative size in the general Syrian population.

In addition to training for command positions, the Syrian army pays special attention to manpower training, both for non-commissioned officers and for career officers, in technical fields related to operating advanced equipment and maintaining it. Toward this end, young volunteers for career army positions as NCO's are sent annually to study in Europe at the state's expense. Over the last few years, a growing awareness has developed within the upper ranks of the Syrian command--as in other Arab armies--regarding the need to nurture the individual in the context of his military service, not just on a professional plane, to cope with the new weapons with which the army is equipped, but also on a human plane, to develop personal traits of independence, initiative, critical evaluation, and sensitivity. Although loyalty to the regime and the party remains a high priority insofar as advancement and promotions are concerned over the last few years, other factors have been added to these considerations--professional ability and personal qualities. Special efforts have been concentrated in these areas in order to increase the level of preparedness in the use of sophisticated equipment and weapons systems and to cope with difficult, dynamic problems under real conditions whenever possible.

An additional characteristic in the development of the human factor in the Syrian army is the ever changing and repetitive exercises in integrated, joint-branch warfare, using modern weapons and developing the ability to command and control large formations.

In conclusion, the Syrian army has improved the professional ability of its people, and its leaders are making a great effort to develop in them characteristics of independent personalities. But, as has happened in the past, in the future, too, the army will be faced with the problems of being tested in the field, which will mean turning the lessons learned into reality and conducting a true and full evaluation of the manpower, the weapons, and their integration.

Enlistment Categories

Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew No 21, 11 Feb 87 p 11

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Beni "Four Training Tracks"]

[Text] There are two basic categories of enlistment in the Syrian army: regular obligatory service of 3 years and obligatory service for academicians of 2 years. On the whole, the Syrian army is a regular army, with a small number of reserve units. As such, a strong emphasis is placed on recruitment into the career army, especially for those from the technical professions. Because the educational network and the scope of courses offered cannot satisfy the army's needs, the Syrian army maintains a network for officer training, with the goal of ensuring that a large number of officers enter the career army. Toward this end, there are four categories of training. Three of them are designated for technical professions, while the fourth is for the military profession.

The first and simplest option is for academic professionals like doctors, engineers and lawyers who have completed their studies (with special permission) before enlisting in the army. In the army, they serve only 2 years, like other academicians. During this period, they are trained to be officers for approximately 6 months and afterward they serve in their profession for approximately 1 and 1/2 years and then pass into the reserve pool. This option, by its very nature, is designed for people who do not make the army their career and therefore, of course, are not subject to the army's requirements for officers.

The second option is for recruits who want the army to subsidize their studies in various professions such as engineering, medicine, and law, in exchange for signing up for 15 years of service in the career army. Recruits who meet the standards established by the army will study at the Asad Career Officers Academy in Haleb for 5 years until they receive a B.A. in their field. These studies are combined with military exercises. At the end of 5 years, the trainees will receive, in addition to their academic degree, the rank of second lieutenant. After completing their studies at the Asad Academy, the officers serve for 10 years, in the field they studied, in various units. The third option is also designed for training career officers. The principle is to send students abroad to study technical subject areas. Afterward, their army requirements are similar to those who graduate the Asad Academy.

The fourth and most important option is the one generally chosen by people who see the career army as their life's goal and who enlist in the army for that purpose. Those who choose this option also commit themselves to an initial term of military service of 15 years. Their service begins with 3 years of basic training at the officer's school in the town of Homs. At the end of 3 years, the trainees receive the rank of second lieutenant and continue to serve and advance through the ranks, receiving the necessary additional training along the way.

Night Combat Capabilities

Tel Aviv BAMAHAHE in Hebrew No 21, 11 Feb 87 p 11

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Tamir: "Night Combat"]

[Text] For someone who had studied Soviet doctrine, it is not difficult to determine that the Syrian army has adopted and implemented this doctrine in the area of night combat.

In principle, night combat is the same as day combat. The differences are expressed in the numerical data related to the movement of troops and range. This is the case regarding the large-scale operational techniques used in decisive battles.

Night combat, according to the Syrian version, is generally limited to maintaining minimal contact and avoiding the implementation of decisive battles at night. Notwithstanding, it is likely that the Syrian army leaders will exploit the night to achieve surprise and take advantage of operative opportunities for digging in, for landing fighting forces on the enemy's front, and for

initiating defensive confrontations or retaliations. Syria is equipped with starlight intensifiers for limited use, such as the RPG-7 and night observation equipment such as the BMP-1. The Syrian armored corps still relies on active infrared.

It may be assumed that this situation will bring about a change in the way Syrian leaders conceive the possibility of night activities, in particular, the option of implementing decisive night combat.

Naval Vessels

Tel Aviv BAMAHAANE in Hebrew No 21, 11 Feb 87 p 13

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Mami: "A New Fact"]

[Text] A marked increase has occurred over the last few years in the number of vessels in the Syrian navy. Compared with 1973, the navy today has more advanced and varied means at its disposal. The basis of the increased purchases has been to ensure the safety of the country's shores and, at the same time, to build up the potential to destroy enemy vessels from the shore--and at long range.

At the beginning of the 1980's, the Syrians began implementing the lessons learned in 1973 in the naval field. This was expressed at two main levels: an exceedingly marked strengthening of the coastal defense network and an increase in the number of sailing vessels.

The strengthening of the coastal defense network was expressed in the creation of three "fire belts" for short, medium, and long range. The response to enemy naval activity in the short range would be provided by shore rockets controlled by radar, scattered along the length of the coast. The response to similar activity at medium range would be provided by coast-to-sea missile batteries equipped with "improved Sticks," with an operational range of 50 nautical miles. These missiles are supposed to be the answer to enemy naval activity conducted from opposite the Syrian shore at distances above 50 nautical miles.

The number of vessels in the Syrian navy has increased over the last few years. This growth came from the purchase of a very broad variety of vessels from the United States. The acquisition included missile boats of the Osa 2 advanced model, equipped with improved Sticks (launch distance greater than 50 nautical miles), mines (including some relatively advanced models), high-speed escort boats, and submarines. The purchase of these subs was a turning point for the Syrian fleet, whereby after a break of approximately 24 years, the fleet began operating in the underwater arena once again.

The Syrian fleet has at its disposal more than 20 Soviet-made Mi-14 helicopters, the function of which is to combat submarines. To fulfill this function, they are equipped with sonar finding devices and devices for finding the sea's magnetic field as well as combat equipment including torpedos and depth charges. Activating these, combined with Patia antisubmarine frigates, should significantly improve the ability to find and attack enemy submarines operating in the Syrian coastal area.

Commando Units

Tel Aviv BAMAHAHE in Hebrew No 21, 11 Feb 87 p 15

[Article by Haim Raviv: "Crushing Forces"]

[Text] The Syrian commandos are included, along with the paratroopers, in what are known in Syria as the "special forces." They are considered to be a tough nucleus and a force with strong motivation which prefers to fight to the death rather than surrender. The Syrian regime is proud of these forces and calls them "the best force in the Middle East...."

The "special forces" of the Syrian army gained operational experience in the Yom Kippur War and the Galilee Peace War. In the fighting in Lebanon, they acted in cooperation with the armored corps and the infantry corps. There they gained significant battle experience, but their involvement caused a serious disruption in the planning of regular exercises. In these battles, they also suffered significant manpower losses.

The special forces date back to 1958 and the establishment of a unit of paratroopers. Since then, this network has developed into a crushing force organized into a framework of brigades. Each brigade is made up of three battalions of commandos or paratroopers with auxiliary units. The members of the commando brigade can be identified by the different, colorful background under their tag which is fashioned in the shape of a knot. They wear camouflage uniforms. Each battalion is comprised of departments armed with a massive number of various weapons. They are equipped with Hot and Milan anti-tank missiles, with Soviet rockets, and with medium and heavy machineguns. Similarly, they have mobility, among other things, by helicopter.

In addition to individual training, in the context of the special forces of the Syrian army, tactical exercises are also conducted at various levels (department, company, or battalion) during which they undergo exercises typical of the forces activities. The special forces fill the following functions, among others:

- Ensuring the security of the regime, both in times of peace and war;
- Protecting crucial civilian and military installations throughout Syria (government offices, refineries, airfields, and the like);
- Conducting actions on the enemy front.

In the framework of their activities in enemy territory, the Syrian commando forces try to perform the following tasks: blocking traffic arteries leading to the front; delaying the arrival of IDF reserve forces; taking over crucial territory; attacking installations; and causing confusion and distress within the enemy's forces.

The soldiers of the special forces in Syria are volunteers, mostly from the Alawite sect. The main conditions for their recruitment are physical ability and loyalty to the regime. During their service, they undergo various exercises

designed to make them superb foot soldiers, and in fact, their ability and intensive training allows them to fulfill any mission that the foot soldiers would undertake.

Since the Yom Kippur War, there has been a marked increase in the scope of commando units in the Syrian army, not just in quantity but in quality as well.

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BARTERING USED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 10 Apr 87 pp 42-43

[Text] Syria has joined the list of countries which resort to bartering as an empirical way of developing international trade without exhausting foreign reserves. Damascus recently saw increased activity by delegations from a large number of European and American firms that came to the Syrian capital to negotiate barter agreements for the import of such Syrian goods as phosphates, canned foods, asphalt, cotton, and textiles in return for machinery, spare parts, and medical supplies.

The Syrian government adopted a barter policy following a study by a specialized committee composed of seven ministers concerned with trade and economic affairs and chaired by deputy prime minister for economic affairs Salim Yasien.

It is worth mentioning that the barter policy recommended by the committee is totally independent from the "clearing" agreements that have governed trade with Eastern bloc countries for the past 25 years.

The development of barter trade is in step with the policy of rationalizing exports whose main objective is to provide foreign exchange for the country's basic needs.

Syria experienced in 1986 a sharp drop in luxury imports and a corresponding increase in exports despite a decline in foreign exchange holdings by the Central Bank of Syria.

Informed Western sources indicate that a number of European firms have signed barter agreements with Syrian public corporations that also cover late payments for previously extended commercial credit. Among them was a French firm to which 350 million French francs were owed in 1986.

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CSO: 4404/312

MILK, MEAT PRODUCTION IN DAR'A DISCUSSED

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 3 Apr 87 p 6

[Article by Ahmad Zayid: "Dar'a's Cattle Farm Produces 2343 Tons of Milk and 152 Tons of Veal"]

[Text] The cattle farm in Dar'a province is an important productive economic unit. Its objective is to produce milk and meat, supply breeders with calves, and help farmers develop livestock production in the province.

The farm started with 400 calves which increased to 800 calves in 1974. This has now developed into 1600 animals of which 600 are cows and the remainder calves ranging in age from 1 day to 25 months. A calf is added to the herd of milk cows once it gives birth.

Male calves are fattened to about 400 kilos then delivered to the Meat Company in Damascus. The farm recently suffered a shortage of pasture because of the drought. This has been alleviated by drawing water from al-'Abd wells. The project is being implemented by the Irrigation Projects Company in the southern region. The entire pipeline has already been laid and awaits the installation of pumps at the main source. The farm management and irrigation company are currently discussing the irrigation by sprinkler of 400 dunums on the farm to be used by 800 milk cows. Last year the farm produced 152 tons of fattened calf meat and 2343 tons of milk to be increased this year to 2565 tons of which a portion will be consumed locally in Dar'a and the remainder delivered to the Milk Company in Damascus. The farm also produced 644 calves in 1986. A select number of male calves were distributed to farmers for breeding purposes.

Cattle breeding requires a certain technique. Newborns are taken away from their mothers on the first day of birth and put in separate pens. They are fed colostrum according to a precise scientific formula in order to protect them and provide them with the same natural immunity that is obtained from the first 4 days of the mother's milk. The majority of calves are not suckled directly by the mother. Instead they are suckled artificially or through milk buckets. The calf is fed colostrum from the 1st to the 4th days of its life. From the 4th to the 15th day, it is given complete care in individual pens. The calves are later moved to another building where they are kept in groups and milk-fed for 3 months then isolated again for 3 months in a separate building. After that the calves are added to the herd of young cattle. A special routine is applied

to young cows until they are of breeding age and are inseminated at the appropriate time. They remain under observation and special care until they give birth and are added to the herd of milk cows.

The males, on the other hand, are put in a special feeding program until they weigh 400 kilos.

The first 4 days in a calf's life are the most important--the 1st day especially. In the first 2 hours it is fed with a sufficient amount of colostrum then given special care for the following 15 days. The mother is also given special care during the first few days after birth in order to insure continued good health for milk production and for another pregnancy at the appropriate time. It is treated with germicides, fed special means, and given periodic examinations, especially of the uterus, until it is again ready for insemination and pregnancy. There is total emphasis on nutrition in accordance with the cow's condition and productivity, especially in the first month of lactation. It is given nutritional supplements to stabilize milk production. Fodder is then supplied in accordance with the quantity of production.

It is important to provide a balanced fodder that supplies all nutrients such as starches, proteins, vitamins, and salts, a fodder that economically feasible. Attention must also be paid to adverse weather conditions. The first and foremost consideration is that the newborn is a living being affected by drafts and temperature variations and must be shielded against harsh environments. The last 2 months of pregnancy are also significant in preparing the mother for changing conditions after birth. This is when the pregnant cow is given special care and attention in terms of the quality and quantity of food which must contain the necessary amounts of proteins, salts, and vitamins as well as green fodder.

An important advice to our brethren farmers and breeders is not to prolong the period between birth and insemination which would also mean an economic loss to the breeder. The cow should be examined by a vet if that period exceeds 2 months.

Health care for cattle is as follows:

--Mothers must be treated for any inflammation of the uterus or the udder. There should be a follow up on any difficult births and any diseases that crop up. The herd is to be given the necessary periodic inoculations.

--Calves, and especially newborns, should be monitored closely throughout their lives. Their health must be constantly monitored in order to quarantine and treat cases of illness if necessary. The farm conducts a timely program of periodic inoculations to safeguard the herd and newborns year round.

--Medical drugs are available and there is no difficulty in obtaining them. Any shortage is covered by local substitutes.

--Artificial insemination has been used by the farm since its inception. Pregnancies are monitored and overseen.

--The farm cultivates some 4400 dunums of wheat, oats, and barley which are harvested at the flowering stage and fed to the herd either green or dried. It is an important nutritious food.

--Corn is planted in the summer and fed to the herd as fresh green fodder.

Finally, cattle breeding is a combination of care and science. It requires constant monitoring and a large degree of knowledge and expertise which, if available, would enable us to develop this kind of production in both the private and public sectors in order to meet our increasing needs for milk products and meat, not to mention a good income for breeders.

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CONFERENCE DISCUSSES FOOD INDUSTRY, PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 7-13 Mar 87 p 45

[Article: "'Fatalism' Rules Arab Agriculture"]

[Text] At the joint invitation of the Arab Federation of Food Industries, the Arab Cooperatives Federation, the Consumer Cooperatives Federation, the Federation of Chambers of commerce and Industry in the Arab Emirates, and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of al-Fujayrah, and under the patronage of al-Shaykh Hamad Ibn Muhammad al-Sharqi, member of the Supreme Council and Governor of al-Fujayrah, the conference of the Arab Food Integration Council was held with the goal of appraising the status of and obstacles to Arab food industry production, the resources available to the members of the Arab Federation of Food Industries in the field of food production, and the marketing possibilities available to the consumer cooperatives through the Arab Cooperatives Federation. This occurred in the Emirate of al-Fujayrah in the United Arab Emirates.

Over 3 days and in 6 business meetings, the conference debated more than 15 research papers and covering these subjects: the production and processing of food in the Arab world and the role of the Arab Federation for Food Products in its growth and development; Arab coordination and integration in the field of production and consumption of food; the manufacture and use of metallic products in canning and wrapping; food industries and engineering; individual quick freezing and refrigerated warehouses for foodstuffs; fighting the decay of dates; the technology of dates; agricultural cooperatives and their role in development, and integration, and the regional distribution of Arab agricultural produce; horizons of cooperation and coordination between the Arab Cooperatives Federation and the Arab Food Industries Federation. Aside from these, the panel discussed the various aspects of food production, commerce and consumption in the United Arab Emirates, and the production and marketing of Iraqi dates.

The last working session was reserved for general discussions of the problems of processing, marketing and transporting food, as well as the required safety measures, the means of defining the highest standards for Arab food products and the means of evaluating those products. Likewise, there was a thorough discussion of the final communique and the adopted recommendations. The conference confirmed that, although efforts were and still are being made at the national and regional levels in the field of comprehensive agricultural growth and the scientific development of food industries, nevertheless these efforts remain below the level of the Arab nation's legitimate aspirations to narrow the food

gap which it faces and ensure its security. Grain production remains crucial; the link between agriculture and industry is still weak, and they are not considered complementary elements in a comprehensive Arab development plan. One of the roles of science and technology is to hasten development and progress. All developmental trends in the Arab countries should be tributaries to the river of comprehensive Arab development.

Arab food producers, including farmers and industrial workers, make a great effort. Nevertheless, the narrowness of local markets, the difficulty of providing uniform standards and stimulating a vigorous economic flow in the veins of sea and air transport, the lack of commitment to the goals and principles of the Arab common market--all these and other factors stand in the way of attaining food security. It is in this context that a role is played by production, consumer and service cooperatives through the Arab Cooperatives Federation to promote the Arab food industry, seek to help it take root, and cause Arab food commodities to replace similar foreign commodities.

Prompted by this reality, the participants in the al-Fujayra conference for Arab food integration called for evaluating and keep track of the decisions and recommendations issued by the League of Arab States through its conventions and conferences, as well as the accomplishments of regional and national groups and activities concerned with agricultural growth and the development of Arab processing industries, including food industries. The conference adopted 21 important recommendations, in the forefront of which were the following:

Arab ministries of agriculture and the appropriate authorities in the Arab countries should: pay greater attention to the production of crops grown for industrial purposes; concentrate on wheat, grain, oil seeds, and the like; attempt to benefit from cooperative means of production and the mixed sector to create scientific, multi-faceted industrial-agricultural enterprises. The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development should cooperate with the agencies sponsoring the conference in the interest of developing implementable, nationwide proposals.

The appropriate Arab authorities, such as the Arab ministries of agriculture, higher education, and scientific research should be urged to stress applied scientific research in both branches of the agricultural realm--growing plants and raising cattle--and to build authoritative Arab research centers. Arab scientists and researchers should be urged to do field work with farmers as well as those who raise animals for meat and dairy products, in an effort to implement on the practical level the results of their research and become aware of the difficulties facing farmers.

Because of the success achieved on the Arab and the international levels by cooperative efforts in agricultural development, and because of the direct link to production, industrialization and marketing, the participants saluted the harmony and cooperation which exist between the two Arab federations (food industries and cooperatives); and the participants called on Arab organizations and states to support the participating groups and the projects they proposed, whether on the level of production or marketing.

Seeing that the human factor is so important in agricultural development and food industry, and out of a desire to provide individuals with academic and technical training in accordance with international technological developments, and with an eye to developing Arab-born technologies in keeping with the actual needs of Arab agriculture and industry--the conference called on the ministries of education and the specialized technical institutes to appraise and develop the current programs of education and training, as well as emphasize quality without disregard to the actual quantity which the Arab world needs.

Quality-control federations, specialized Arab organizations, and the appropriate quarters in the Arab states should be urged to: give greater care to the establishment of land, sea and air transportation; provide economical means of transport; facilitate the transport of food commodities from an Arab source to the places of consumption.

Interest should be stimulated in the vertical expansion of the agricultural sector in the first stage, followed by horizontal expansion, provided that such expansion take place in the framework of a schedule which is fully capable of attaining the desired objective.

Efforts must be made to create [regional] specialized agricultural cooperatives within the Arab states, as well as pan-Arab cooperatives in various countries within the Arab world.

Interest should be stimulated in the creation and modernization of consumer cooperatives on the one hand, and in promoting [on the other hand] preferential treatment for the Arab food industry as an aspect of the cooperative movement's attempt to market its products in a manner which serves the interests of society.

Sufficient flexibility must be enjoyed by the cooperatives in investing their financial surplus in food industry inside their own countries and in other countries of the Arab world.

Arab financial institutions--whether funds, banks, or enterprises--should coordinate their efforts to support food security projects, and to establish new joint companies for this purpose (in addition to the existing companies and organizations) after evaluating their economic and technical efficiency.

Products of joint Arab projects should priority in buying; they also should be given preferential treatment, exempted from fees, and protected from foreign competition.

In addition, there were many recommendations aimed at protecting Arab food products, improving their quality, and promoting them in regard to quantity and excellence. It was also suggested that a committee, drawn from the sponsors of the conferences, should be formed to follow up the work of the conference and implement the proposals.

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EMIGRE PAPER ON COUNTRY'S POLICY TOWARD AFGHAN PROBLEM

London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 87 p 20

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Despite the fact that Iran has sheltered over 1.5 million Afghan refugees and homeless, no Iranian officials, not even inactive observers, were present at Geneva talks regarding the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Indirect talks took place recently in Geneva between Abdol Wakil, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet protectorate regime in Kabul and Pirzadeh Yaqub Khan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. Cordovez, the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, acted as a mediator. The Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan were negotiating the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. It is said that Cordovez agreed on certain issues with them.

It must be pointed out that the government of Pakistan does not recognize the Soviet protectorate regime in Kabul and is not willing to enter into formal negotiations with the officials of this country. As a result, their negotiations were conducted through the representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The government of the Islamic Republic has also refrained from recognizing the Kabul regime and is not willing to directly negotiate with officials of this regime. Iranian and Pakistani reasoning is that the present regime in Kabul has been unlawfully imposed by the occupying Soviet troops on the nation of Afghanistan. On the other hand, Iran and Pakistan do not officially object to the political platform of the Afghanistan government. They state that the Afghan nation is completely free to choose any political order it prefers. But this political order must be freely chosen by the Afghans themselves and not imposed by 120,000 armed Soviet troops and by the aircraft bombing them. From the Iranian and Pakistani point of view, the source of the unlawful present government of Kabul goes back to the time when the People's (Khalgh) wing of the Communist Party of Afghanistan, with the help of special Soviet commandos in Kabul, overthrew the Communist government of the Parcham wing under the leadership of Hafizallah Amin in a coup d'etat and killed Amin and his close associates. Prior to that, in a coup against the Khalgh wing of the Communist Party of Afghanistan, Amin had killed its leader Taraki.

Until official Soviet interference in Afghanistan by its troops and until the Communist government of Afghanistan had power in its own hands without the presence of the Soviet forces in that country, Iran and Pakistan, despite their unhappiness with the situation in Afghanistan, had actually officially recognized it. But the establishment of the Babrak Karmal government by Soviet troops against all international laws and accords, resulted in Tehran and Islamabad not recognizing the unlawful Soviet placed regime in Kabul.

Unfortunately, the coup d'etat by the Soviet troops in Kabul occurred at a time when Iran was burning with the fever of revolution and the U.S. hostage taking and it did not have the time to pay attention to its eastern neighbor. Later, the Islamic Republic's involvement in the war with Iraq prevented it from paying necessary attention to the question of the presence of Soviet troops in its eastern neighboring country.

Now that negotiations are taking place in regard to the withdrawal of Soviet forces, Iran does not have any representative or political presence. In fact, Iran, like Pakistan, has the right to take part in negotiations pertaining to the future of Afghanistan. Iran and Pakistan both have a just claim in this regard since each has housed millions of Afghan refugees and homeless on their soil and feels responsible towards them. Also, both countries have mutual religious and cultural interests with the Afghan nation. In this regard, besides being Afghanistan's neighbor and having mutual religious interests, Iran also has a special bond in language and history with the Afghans.

The officials of the Islamic Republic have not yet given a convincing reason why Iran has not played an active role regarding the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and other related question. The outcome of the Geneva negotiations is not yet evident, but informed political sources indicate that the Soviets have finally realized they have to resolve the Afghanistan question in some manner.

Sadeq Khalkhali, the representative to the Islamic Majlis from Qom, who recently returned to Tehran from a visit to the Soviet Union with other Islamic Republic officials, told reporters: "The problems of Afghanistan will be discussed very soon in four-way negotiations with the participation of Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the representatives of the Afghan Mujahidin." He also referred to the visit of Shevardnadze, the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs to Iran and said: "Shevardnadze is going to visit Iran very soon for the very same reason."

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VICE PRESIDENT HOSTS BANQUET FOR JAPANESE PRINCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Vice President R Venkataraman and the visiting Prince Naruhito of Japan on Friday called for deepening Indo-Japanese cooperation and consolidate their relations, reports PTI.

Speaking at a banquet he hosted for Prince Naruhito, the Vice-President stressed the need to impart greater content and momentum to Indo-Japanese cooperation "not only for mutual benefit but also for peace and progress of Asia and the world".

"The level of bilateral exchanges in various fields has been satisfactory but their full potential is yet to be realised", he said.

Mr Venkataraman noted that Japan like India, believed that harmonious relations between North and South depended to a large extent on the establishment of a more equitable international order.

"Joint efforts are called for to resolve international economic and financial problems in the spirit of fair play. The benefits of development must reach all sections of our world", the Vice-President said.

India was conscious of this imperative and would like to cooperate with countries like Japan to achieve this objective, he said.

Tracing the ancient links between Japan and India, Mr Venkataraman said these have been "eloquently reaffirmed through a multi-dimensional

relationship in the post-war years".

However, he said the historical experiences of the two countries have not been similar and, therefore, it was "inevitable that our respective perceptions of international relations are not similar".

Mr Venkataraman expressed happiness that a cultural festival of India was planned in Japan next year and said he was confident that this would enable people of Japan to get an authentic impression of Indian music, dances and other artistic experiences and further strengthen the cultural bonds between the two countries.

In his reply the visiting Prince said "it is important not only for Japan and India but also for Asia and all the world, with their influence in the international community, that the two countries deepen their mutual understanding and trust and consolidate their relations".

Prince Naruhito expressed his strong wish that the closest possible relations based on friendship and trust would be established between the two countries and their peoples.

Prince Naruhito, who arrived in New Delhi on Thursday on a five-day official visit, had a 30-minute meeting with President Zail Singh earlier in the day.

Bilateral relations and matters of mutual concern figured in the talks.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1566

ENVOY TO CANADA DENIES EXPULSION REPORTS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 87 p 5

[Text]

TORONTO, March 28.—The Indian High Commission today described as "utter nonsense" a report which said that two Indian diplomats left Canada this month after being branded spies by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, reports AP.

The Toronto Globe and Mail, quoting unidentified Government sources, also said a third diplomat, at the Indian High Commission in Ottawa, has been allowed to stay until June to enable his children to finish the school year.

Sources said that the names of Mr Bilj Mohan Lal, a consul in Toronto and a former Brigadier in the Indian Army and Mr Gurinder Singh, a consul in Vancouver and a senior police intelligence officer, were on a list of spies compiled by the security service after an investigation which begun in 1984, the newspaper reported.

The report said Canada's External Affairs Minister Mr Joe Clark, gave the list to the Indian Government during a trip to that country last month. It also quoted sources as having said that the Indian Gov-

ernment was told that Canada would expell th emen if they were not recalled voluntarily.

The Indian High Commission spokesman, Mr Shashi Tripathi, who denied the report, said Mr Lal left Canada on March 15, just before his three-year term was up, because he was retiring. Mr Singh, who left last week, had served slightly more than his three-year term, Mr Tripathi said.

A Clark aide, Mr William Chambers, refused to confirm or deny whether the Minister demanded that the three leave Canada.

"We do not talk about discussions we have with foreign countries about such matters", said Mr Chambers, who accompanied Mr Clark to India.

The envoys were found engaged in activities incompatible with their professional status, the newspaper reported.

The sources said that the two used a network of paid informers and provocateurs to penetrate Canada's Sikh communities in Toronto and Vancouver, the newspaper reported.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1576

TRIPURA OFFICIAL TELLS PROBLEMS OF CHAKMA INFLUX

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Mar 87 p 16

[Text]

THE migration of tribal refugees from the Chittagong hill tract in Bangladesh which started on April 29, 1986, continues unabated.

It started as a sequel to the combined planned attacks by the Bangladesh rifles stationed at the Chittagong hill tract and by the Muslims who were brought from other parts to settle there in an effort to evict the Chakma tribals.

The harassed and threatened tribals started moving to Tripura to seek shelter till the situation returned to normal. Their number has since reached about 50,000 and the authorities fear that it may swell to 100,000 if the present trend is not checked.

The state chief secretary, Mr. N. P. Nawani, told this correspondent that at present 200 to 250 fresh refugees on an average cross over to Tripura daily. He said the expenditure incurred on them so far has exceeded Rs. 200 crores.

The presence of such a large number of foreign nationals in the state inhabited by 22 lakh people is sure to create economic, political and social problems impregnated with dangerous consequences, according to political leaders here.

The issue of turning back the Chakma migrants to Bangladesh figured prominently in the proceedings of the Tripura legislative assembly during the current budget session. Participating in a discussion on a calling-attention motion tabled by two opposition members, the chief minister, Mr. Nripen Chakraborty, dwelt at length on the problem to project it in its true perspective.

Keeping in view the dangers posed by the prolonged stay of the refugees in the state, the state government has

pleaded with the Central government to initiate immediate diplomatic moves with the Bangladesh government to arrange the peaceful and satisfactory return of the refugees. The refugees who have crossed over belong to the areas in Bangladesh from where they have been hounded out to make room for the rehabilitation of "outsider Muslims."

It has been pointed out that the refugees on their return should be given back their property and a congenial climate of peace should be created for them to live in safety and honour. Otherwise, they would start moving to Tripura again as had happened on three previous occasions, he said.

After talks, there was agreement between the governments of India and Bangladesh that the return of a specified number of refugees in three different Tripura-Bangladesh border routes should start on January 15 last. But on January 14 there were firings and attacks on the Chakmas in Bangladesh, so the refugees refused to move out for fear of reprisals.

Earlier, it was agreed at a meeting of the district magistrate of South Tripura and the district commissioner of Khagrachhari in Bangladesh that the Bangladesh government would take back 24,000 refugees and a tentative list of 6,140 persons was prepared. But this proposal fell through for want of initiative by the Bangladesh government.

Again on February 2 last, discussions were held by the military

commanders of the two sides at which the other side contended that the real Bangladeshis should be identified first but there was no indication of the date when the return exodus would take place, the chief minister said.

The chief minister also revealed that

his government in its last communication to the Union Government had reminded that Tripura would face a lot of trouble with grave consequences if the assurance of a specific date for the return of the refugees could not be obtained from Bangladesh.

In reply to a point of clarification, the chief minister stated that the stream of refugees crossing over to Tripura "make us all the more cautious and we cannot, therefore, encourage the establishment of advance reception centres for them." There was already a sustained propaganda by the Bangladesh government that the Tripura government continues to invite Chakma refugees with the lure of good accommodation and double the rate of rations.

Further, clarifying a point, he stated that with the increase in the number of refugees, there was a distinct possibility that they might spread to other areas making their identification among their co-tribal community difficult.

Clarifying another point sought by a member, the chief minister said that newspapers continued to highlight the role of the Shanti Bahini of Bangladesh in this exodus, "but we cannot confirm or contradict them as we are not in any way briefed by the Union government in the matter. It is an international issue as it involves two sovereign states and only the Central government can have a say on it."

Given the attitude of the Bangladesh government and the procrastination displayed by the Central government in dealing with the issue, it appeared to members that the Chakma refugee problem would drag on for a long time.

Meanwhile, the refugees continue to suffer facing an uncertain future and the lurking fear of the local people's reaction if they prolonged their stay in Tripura.

LOK DAL FACTION, JANATA TO COOPERATE IN HARYANA POLL

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 5 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] The Ajit Singh faction of the Lok Dal and the Janata Party will jointly contest the forthcoming elections to the Haryana Assembly. This will be one of the first steps in a joint effort at fostering unity among Opposition parties.

The general secretary of the Lok Dal (Ajit Singh faction), Dr Subramaniam Swamy, today released to the Press a statement issued jointly by Mr Ajit Singh and the president of the Janata Party, Mr Chandra Shekhar. The two leaders had met yesterday evening and had decided to cooperate.

"In the interest of the country, consolidation of the democratic Opposition and unity of Opposition parties is the need of the hour. Towards this end, it was agreed that the two parties should work together in the future, in close cooperation," the statement said.

"They will attempt to coordinate a joint struggle programme against the anti-people policies of the present Government. In particular, the two parties will jointly contest the forthcoming Haryana elections and will also seek to enlarge the cooperation with other Opposition parties and promote their consolidation."

Dr Swamy said the decision to work together was taken on a national basis, and not confined to Haryana alone. Regarding Haryana, he conceded that a leader of the rival Lok Dal faction was the most powerful Opposition figure and added that he would "like to see Mr Devi Lal, the Chief Minister". However, developments in the immediate future would influence that position.

The Telugu Desam was the first of the regional parties the Lok

Dal would be working with, in a bid for Opposition unity. Dr Swamy said that following a conversation over the telephone with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr Ajit Singh and he would soon be going to Hyderabad to meet Mr N. T. Rama Rao. According to him, there was already such affinity between the Lok Dal and the Telugu Desam.

Dr Swamy said he had also contacted the DMK and the Assam Gana Parishad leaders towards that end. There had been discussions with other Opposition parties too, but it would be premature and unfair to expand on that for the present.

Elections to the Haryana Assembly are expected to take place in the last week of May or the first week of June, in any case before June 10. This was the impression given to a deputation of Opposition leaders who met Mr R. V. S. Peri Sastri, Chief Election Commissioner, yesterday. He wanted the election in Haryana as early as possible.

The Haryana elections, it is stated, must take place before June 10, for soon thereafter the process of presidential elections will begin. If the Haryana poll does not take place by then, and the present House, whose term will be over by June 23, is not reconstituted by holding a fresh poll, the Haryana Assembly will not be able to participate in the presidential election.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1585

WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER ALLOCATES PORTFOLIOS

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 3 Apr 87 p 1

[Text]

Calcutta, April 2: The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, today allocated portfolios to 13 Cabinet ministers and two ministers of state. Mr Basu has retained the home portfolio and will be looking after all other departments not assigned so far.

The second batch of 16 ministers of the third Left Front government will be sworn in tomorrow at 4 pm. The governor, Prof Nurul Hasan, will administer the oath of office and secrecy at a simple ceremony on the Raj Bhavan lawns. The ministers are Mr Kanti Biswas, Mr Provas Phodkar, Mr Abdul Qayum Molla, Mr Subhas Chakraborty, Mr Shyamal Chakraborty, Mr Achintya Roy, Mr Abdul Bari, Mr Dinesh Daku, Mr Ambarish Mukherjee, Mr Abdur Rezzak Molla, Mr Maheswar Murmu, Mr Banamali Roy, Mr Ramani Kanta Deb Sharma, Mr Shanti Ghatak and Ms Chaya Bera, of the CPI(M). Among the constituents of the Left Front, only the Forward Bloc nominee, Mr Saral Deb, will be sworn in tomorrow.

Among the portfolios that were distributed today, Mr Be-

noy Chowdhury, the number two in the cabinet, has retained his earlier departments of land and land reforms, panchayat and community development. Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya and Mr Ashim Dasgupta, two new entrants, have been allocated information and culture, local government and urban development and finance, development and planning respectively.

Mr Prabir Sengupta has been given urban and rural water supply department along with power. Mr Prasanta Sur, former urban development minister, has been shifted to the health and family welfare department so far held by Dr Ambarish Mukherjee. Mr Sur will also look after relief and rehabilitation.

Of the constituents of the Left Front, Mr Jatin Chakravarty (RSP), has been given the public works department for the third time in a row.

Debabrata Bandopadhyaya, former jail and social welfare minister, will now look after irrigation and waterways and Mr Biswanath Chowdhury will be the new jail and social welfare minister.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1583

RISE IN NUMBER OF FOREIGN COLLABORATIONS SEEN

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 3 Apr 87 p 6

[Article by K.K. Sharma]

[Text]

New Delhi, April 2: The easing of controls of foreign investment and the decision to permit import of technology for modernisation of Indian industry led to a spurt in foreign collaboration agreements in 1986 when these reached a record figure of 957 involving a total foreign investment of Rs 107 crores.

The US emerged as the largest source of foreign investment and import of technology, accounting for 189 of the agreements. Of these, 118 were for transfer of technology while 71 others involved foreign investment worth a total of Rs 29.4 crores, thereby reflecting a new interest in India by US companies.

They provided technology to or invested in Indian companies involved in such industries as computers and software, electrical, chemical and industrial machinery, electronics, oil drilling, manmade fibres among others.

In 1986, the US thus provided 16.5 per cent of the total agreements for transfer of technology

and accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the financial investment. The trend is expected to be maintained in 1987, particularly if controls are further eased and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (Fera) is relaxed.

West Germany came next to the US in 1986, accounting for 183 agreements of which 143 were for transfer of technology and 40 involving financial investment of Rs 20.6 crores. The area of investment included machine tools, industrial machinery, chemicals, mechanised sailing services and onshore drilling services.

Britain, which was once India's leading industrial partner, came third in 1986 with a total of 130 agreements of which 107 were for transfer of technology and 23 involved financial investment worth Rs 7.7 crores. The areas of collaboration included industrial machinery, electronics instruments and components, petrochemicals, mining equipment, axles and aromatic chemicals.

Curiously, Japan comes relatively low at the fourth position in the list and accounted for a total of 111 agreements of which 96 were for transfer of technology and only 15 for financial investment of a total of just Rs 1.5 crore. It had been thought that Japan would be a leader in foreign investment because of the rapid strides it has made in evolving new technology in many industrial areas.

The main areas of Japanese investment in India included industrial machinery, scientific equipment, automobile and auto ancillaries, caustic soda and white cement.

Other major investors in India included Italy (with 58 agreements) France (with 39 agreements) Switzerland (with 29 agreements). Non-resident Indians accounted for a total of only 25 agreements of which 17 were for transfer of technology and eight for financial investment of a negligible Rs 8 crores.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1583

ENVOY TELLS DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO-HUNGARIAN TRADE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Apr 87 p 9

[Text] India has become Hungary's largest iron ore pellets supplier with the conclusion of a contract for 325,000 tonnes of pellets in February last, reports Unifin.

Mr Jozsef Olah, Hungarian ambassador, addressing a press conference on the eve of the 42nd anniversary of the liberation of Hungary, said that the iron ore pellets deal was the largest single Indian export contract in the bilateral relations.

He said that Hungary will be purchasing Maruti passenger cars from India against the supply of automobile electric goods.

A five-year contract has been signed on 30 April for purchase of 500 Maruti cars along with two million dollar worth of spares every year. Hungary will export components for Maruti cars such as dash boards, axles and spark plugs and ball bearings to the tune of two million dollars from next year onwards.

The Hungarian ambassador said that his country has deliv-

ered lignite-fired boilers for 630 MW thermal power station at Neyveli and has been supplying equipment for hydro power projects.

The Hungarian enterprises took part in the development of Indian telecommunication systems as well. They have built in India about 4000 km long microwave network. Besides the projects, Hungary delivered to India considerable quantities of polyethylene granulates, aluminium cable steel reinforced conductors, pharmaceutical raw materials and intermediates, insecticides and pesticides, lamp making machinery, and machine tools.

Hungary has been importing from India consumer goods, spices, tea, and leather goods. In recent years greater importance is gained by the consumer electronics.

The trade between the two countries is carried in convertible currencies since 1978. India's exports amounted to \$ 37 million and imports \$ 31 million in 1986.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1588

NEW 20-POINT PROGRAM LAUNCHED, AIMS TOLD

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Apr 87 p 5

[Text] The 20-point programme-1986 was launched on Wednesday with the commencement of the annual plan for 1987-88, the third year of the seventh Plan, reports UNI.

Prepared in accordance with directions given by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the programme brings into direct focus a number of important programmes which have a crucial bearing on the eradication of poverty in the country.

The coverage of the programme has been broadened to bring within its ambit a number of major areas of social concern like provision of clean drinking water, health facilities, acceptance of family planning, expansion of education, equality for women, justice to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, new opportunities for youth, housing for the under-privileged sections of society, the improvement of slums and the protection of environment.

The other important goals sought to be attained relate to enhanced agricultural production and productivity, reduction in income inequalities, removal of social and economic disparities and, in general raising the quality of life.

The implementation of the various anti-poverty programmes has so far contributed substantially towards elevating a number of people above the poverty line and another 60 million people are expected to be raised above the poverty line during the seventh Plan period. In 1984-85, it was estimated that around 270 million people still live below the poverty line and, even today, a little over one-third of the country's population survives critically under the crushing burden of poverty.

A number of income-generating schemes have now been initiated for al-

leviating the lot of the people living below the poverty line.

The scheme basically fall into two categories a scheme for self-employment, and schemes for wage-employment.

House-hold surveys have been launched to clearly identify the people living below the poverty line in each village so that all those, thus afflicted, even though assisted during the sixth Plan period, could be clearly pin-pointed.

In addition, these surveys will also identify persons who have not yet received the benefits of the anti-poverty programmes.

Although the poverty line has been defined in terms of an annual family income of Rs 6,400 or less, the cut-off point for the purpose of extending assistance has been kept at Rs 4,800 in view of the resource-constraint. The highest priority will be given to those families with an annual income level of Rs 3,500 or less.

The programme also lays emphasis on raising production and productivity through better use of water, revised strategies for rain-fed agriculture, emphasis on better harvests and stepping up afforestation and the supply of energy to villagers.

Stress has also been laid on provision of clean drinking water, health for all, expansion of education, slum improvement, equality for women with special stress on responsive parenthood and the 'two-child norm' with the object of controlling population growth.

Last, though not the least, focus has been placed on "a responsive administration" so that the common man is ensured of an expeditious delivery of the benefits of the various development schemes.

NORTHEASTERN TRIBAL GROUPS LAUNCH UNIFICATION MOVE

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 27 Mar 87 p 5

[Article by Wasbir Hussain]

[Text] Guwahati, March 26: The small tribal groups in the north-eastern region have launched a unification move. Leaders of the minority Hmar, Karbi, Zomi and Zeliangrong ethnic groups feel that only a joint struggle would lead to all-round development of their communities and help them retain their distinct identities.

It was with a view to discussing the problems of the "small nationalities" of the region that the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) MLA from Karbi Anglong district, Mr Haliram Terang, and the general secretary of the Zomi National Congress (ZNC) of Manipur, Mr S. Thang Khan Gin Ngaithe, had convened a meeting at Aizawl on February 24. While Mr Terang, who was closely associated with the Assam movement, joined the AGP after winning the last Assembly polls on a Peoples' Democratic Forum (PDF, a local party in Karbi Anglong) ticket, Mr Khan Gin is said to have taken an active interest in the AASU cause while studying at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi.

The meeting demanded that the Centre review the North-Eastern States' Reorganisation Act, 1971, so that the minority ethnic groups could have separate states of their own or more autonomy. The meeting, however, made it clear that they would like to "fight" for their political, socio-economic, cultural and ethnic identities under the "provisions of the Indian Constitution."

Leaders of the ZNC, Mizoram Paihte Organisation (MPO) and Hmar Peoples Convention

(HPC) attended the meeting. Mr Terang and leaders of his parent party, the PDF, "could not attend the meeting."

Mr Terang said that these and a few more political parties would meet at Haflong, headquarters of the North Cachar Hills district of Assam, on April 2 and 3, to discuss the "possibility of a joint struggle." He said the Plains Tribal Council of Assam (PTCA) and the Brachin National Union (BNU) of Manipur would also be invited.

The PTCA, which was an electoral ally of the AGP, is itself spearheading an agitation now, demanding a separate state of "Udayachal" for the plains tribals of Assam. On the other hand, the BNU of the controversial Mr O. Tomba plans to bring about the "political unification of the north-east within the Indian Union." BNU leaflets have criticised the Assam accord for having "failed to fulfil the aspirations of the indigenous people of Assam—the Assamese Karbis and plains tribals—for a safe homeland for their future generations."

On February 21, the president of the Zeliangrong Peoples Convention, Rani Gaideliu, called on the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi to reiterate her demand for a separate state for the Zeliangrong people, who number nearly three lakhs. The 73-year-old leader has been making this demand for the last 50 years. This community is said to be spread over an area of about 12,000 sqkm in Nagaland, Manipur and Assam. Rani Gaideliu now enjoys the hospitality of the Nagaland government, though she openly accuses the state governments of "neglecting" her people.

SIXTH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION RETURNS TO INDIA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Mar 87 p 15

[Text]

NON-conventional, pollution-free sources of energy have been successfully put to use at the Indian scientific station in the Antarctica, according to Dr. Arun Parulekar, leader of the sixth Antarctica expedition, which returned to the country today.

Talking to newsmen on board the chartered ice-breaker, "Thuleland", which brought 86 members of the expedition back home, Dr. Parulekar said Indian scientists were carrying out extensive experiments in the field of non-conventional sources of energy besides detailed research on various other disciplines like meteorology, marine resources, oceanography, land biology and geology.

Members of the third winter team to the Antarctica led by Dr. Vinod Dhargalkar, who spent 15 months in the icy continent, also returned. All of them were given a warm and colourful welcome at the Marmugao harbour.

Dr. Parulekar said that an unidirectional windmill had been set up at the Antarctica to make the best use of the powerful winds. A non-conventional source of energy, power, obtained from the generator coupled to the mill shaft, was used to heat one of the field camps in the region.

Special panels coupled with capacitors were used to tap the solar energy during the six months of continuous sunshine. The expedition leader said the energy which would otherwise have been totally lost because of the reflecting surface of the ice all around, is now being used to light 60-watt bulbs.

Dr. Parulekar said the team had made a tremendous progress since the pioneering first expedition and highlighted the diversification in research. Studies in geology, for instance, had branched out into detailed experimentation in geo-physics, geo-magnetism, glaciology and studies on icebergs, the

largest store house of fresh water in the world.

An interim report of the scientific achievements of the sixth expedition was presented by Dr. Parulekar to Mr. A. K. Mathur, joint secretary, department of ocean development, who flew in specially from New Delhi to receive the team.

The sixth expedition, which was the largest-ever component of 25 scientists, was given logistic support by the three wings of the defence services. Personnel from the army, navy and air force looked after transportation in the difficult snowy region, maintenance of equipment, infrastructural facilities, engineering medical and logistic requirements.

According to Dr. Parulekar, the sixth expedition was lucky to have the best weather possible. Helicopters could be flown to the field camps from the base on 44 of the 60 days they were there.

In the icy, sub-zero climate of the Antarctica region, there is also a lot of warmth and friendliness among the scientific teams of various countries working within kilometres of each other.

Dr. Parulekar described how, in spite of the fierce scientific competition, various teams helped each other in times of need.

Citing an example, they said that a Soviet scientist, who developed appendicitis while working far away from his own base, was successfully operated upon by an Indian surgeon in the operation theatre of the nearby Indian station.

Similarly, the Soviet team donated a washing machine to the Indians when their own machine went out of order recently.

Members of the team from India, Germany, the USSR, Japan, France and other countries working in the region often pay courtesy calls on each other.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PACT SIGNED WITH USSR

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Mar 87 p 5

[Text] India and the USSR have formulated the basis for cooperation in problems of environment protection, with particular reference to desertification, according to a press release.

This was stated by Academician A G Babayev, director of the Institute of Deserts (Soviet Turkmenia) in an interview to APN in New Delhi. Academician Babayev was in India along with the high-powered Soviet delegation led by Academician Guri Marchuk.

According to Academician Babayev, the agreement on environmental protection is an integral part of the "Integrated Project on Arid Land" under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in which the Institute of Deserts, Turkmen Academy of sciences plays a significant role. On the Indian side, the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) makes a major contribution to the UN programme.

Academician Babayev pointed out that the long-term objective of the agreement is to find direct solutions to the most urgent environmental problems associated with desertification processes; rehabilitation and rational development of arid and semi-arid zone ecosystems and formulation of desertification control strategies.

The short-term objectives of the programme, he said, gives weightage to the ecological study of plant population in the Karakum (USSR) and Thar (India) deserts; impact of irrigation canals in the USSR and India on arid ecosystems; and elaborating methods of improvement of desert range lands taking into account local conditions prevalent in the USSR and India. The activities and work plan, according to Academician Babayev, are:

methodology of work; familiarisation of each other's activities; study tour to the Thar desert; in-field activities of Soviet experts in the Indira Gandhi Canal zone; drawing-up of desertification maps of a test site in the Thar; preparation of a report and methodology instructions on assessing desertification intensity and drawing up desertification maps, and discussion of work results and submission of relevant materials to the Indian side for subsequent practical applications.

He said that India and the USSR are cooperating in three major areas: problems of fixing moving sand; problem of desalinisation of soil, and fertility factors. He said that it was important for India not to disturb the ecological system through deforestation, unorganised irrigation and unscientific cultivation as a good part of northern Indian plains are already assuming desert conditions.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1564

BANGALORE STUDIES AID SUPERCONDUCTIVITY RESEARCH

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 87 p 7

[Text] While scientists of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFF) and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) collaborating in Bombay have been able to repeat, verify and improve upon the results of high-temperature superconductivity experiments carried out in different laboratories of the U.S., the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) group at Bangalore, led by Prof. C. N. R. Rao, has succeeded in studying the systematics and the chemistry of the whole range of chemical complexes displaying superconducting transitions at high-temperatures. These studies have enabled the possibility of adopting a new strategy to investigate high-temperature superconductivity.

The property of superconductivity refers to the flow of electric current without the electrical resistance that is characteristic of normal conductors one is familiar with in day to day life and this would mean that electric power can be transmitted without any dissipation of energy enroute. But this behaviour, which is exhibited in a restricted class of substances, was, till recently, found only at extremely low temperatures of around 23 degree Kelvin or so (zero degree K corresponds to -273 degree Celsius).

Experiments in the last few months all over the world, which have discovered superconducting materials with transition temperatures even as high as 100 degree K, have given new hopes in this direction. And Indian experiments in Bombay and Bangalore have been significant among the worldwide efforts.

In three recent papers emerging out of the Bangalore Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit the scientists have detailed the studies carried out in the last two months. These had been

prompted by the recent discoveries of high-temperature superconductivity in January. Their studies include, apart from lanthanum-based compounds which showed transitions around 40-50 degree Kelvin but also yttrium-based compounds which have been found to be superconducting in the 85-110 degree K region. They too have observed similar patterns in the superconductivity behaviour. But what is important in their investigations is that they seem to have a handle on the stoichiometry—the numerical proportions in which the various elements combine to form the complexes—of the various compounds and this means that the preparation of the various samples could be done by more systematic control of different crucial parameters which now seem identifiable.

The compounds that have been investigated by them are the several oxides in the lanthanum-strontium/barium-copper-oxygen system. In place of lanthanum, yttrium, praseodymium and neodymium-based oxides were also looked at. The important finding is that control of the proportion in which oxygen combines is crucial for the high-temperature behaviour of the different compounds. This, in turn, determines the ratio in which copper of different valencies (combining capacities of the atoms)—copper has two such—are present in the compound. Apart from the subtle role played by the mixed valency of copper, crystal structure parameters, at least for the lanthanum, praseodymium and neodymium compounds, seem to be very important in determining the superconducting transition temperatures.

The view expressed by the Bangalore group, based on these observations, is that if we want to produce real high-temperature superconductors may be we should not look for pure compounds.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1563

IRAN

TUDEH ORGAN PORTRAYS GLOOMY PICTURE OF COUNTRY IN 1986

Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 17 Mar 1987 pp 1, 3, 5

[Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian; Central Organ of Tudeh Party of Iran]

[Text] The year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] ended in suffering, pain, violence and bloody battle. At the dawn of 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], it seems appropriate to take a passing look at the main lines of the policies and operations of the regime during the past year.

The events of the past year indicated that the crisis in the regime is a deep, structural one, embodying the entire regime, affecting all the economic, social, political, cultural, ideological and military areas, and is the result of the increasing dependence of the country on the economy of the capitalist worlds.

In 1365 [1986-87], as a result of the decrease in the price of oil, according to the director of the Central Bank, on 19 Bahman [8 February], the foreign currency revenues of the regime decreased by up to 60 percent and financial bankruptcy ensued, particularly with the allocation of majority of the obtained currency from the auction of oil, at a discount of \$3 to \$5 per barrel, to provide for the tremendous expenditures of the war, resulting in the unprecedented recession in production followed by the closure of a large segment of the dependent industries and the mass unemployment of workers and laborers. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, production in more than 12,000 small and large workshops halted throughout the country. At the present, the lines of more than 5 million visible and hidden unemployed, a virtual army, are filled with workers and laborers.

Continuation of the War

In 1365 [1986-87], the reactionary leaders of the regime headed by Khomeyni continued beating the drums of war, and, in order to carry out their expansionist plans, tried to increasingly militarize the economy of the country. This policy resulted in nothing but huge new losses of life and property.

One of the tragic peculiarities of the war in 1365 [1986-87] was the "bloody war in the cities," that is, bombs, bullets and fire showering down on the defenseless people of the two countries and the destruction of production and

industrial facilities. According to published statistics, in that year, the number of persons killed from Iran reached 600,000 and from Iraq, 400,000, and the number of wounded on both sides reached 3 million persons. The number of war refugees in Iran alone exceeded 3 million people, and the war damages of Iran amounted to \$200 billion. The Islamic Republic alone spends \$6 million a day to continue the war.

In 1365 [1986-87], in order to feed the cannons, the regime expanded the battle to arrest and imprison the youth as well as its deception in unprecedented proportions. At the same time, the wave of opposition of the masses of the people to the continuation of the war heightened in various forms, including demonstrations, desertion from the fronts, and refusing to help the fronts.

In 1365 [1986-87], two views of the Iran-Iraq war, one of the most bloody wars since World War II, were distinguishable: the view of the socialist peace camp, which demands the immediate halt to the war and a resolution of the differences at the negotiation table, and the view of the imperialist and reactionary camp, which wants the flames of this war to continue to burn. The statements of comrade Gromyko, who said, Five years of negotiations are better than one day of war, reflected the rational, responsible view of the socialist peace camp. On the other hand, the expression of hope of an Israeli official, who said, "I hope the war continues for another 30 years," and the view of Henry Kissinger, who said, "The only unfortunate aspect of this situation is that only one of the two sides must lose," reflected the view and the inclination of the imperialist, reactionary camp.

Workers and Farmers

In 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], lack of job security became one of the most critical problems of the workers of our country, especially in the dependent production units. As a result of the shortages and lack of raw materials, spare parts and partially-manufactured goods, individual and mass dismissals and terminations expanded to unprecedented proportions.

In 1365 [1986-87], the movement of worker protests and strikes to attain their just demands, including wage increases; an end to dismissals and terminations; attention paid to housing, health and welfare; and devising a labor law which would conform to their demands, still continued vehemently. Manifestations of the workers' struggles in the production units reflected their deep understanding and awareness. Among these were protests against changing the industrial production line to a military production line, protests against the deduction from salaries and wages for the fronts, and resistance against terminations.

In 1365 [1986-87], as a result of the anti-national and anti-people policies and operations of the regime, the trend towards the flood of imports of agricultural goods, such as wheat and rice, increased. The land issue remained unresolved. The Shar' courts and judicial courts retrieved the lands from farmers with the issuance of unjust rulings and handed them to fugitive landowners and feudal landlords. The farmers who had little or no land, and

even a stratum of middle-income farmers, were pushed towards bankruptcy and homelessness under the pressure of large landowners and the regime supporting them. In that year, the wave of migration from the villages to the cities continued.

In 1365 [1986-87], the farmers' movement, even with its ups and downs, continued to advance and essentially resistance against the khans, feudal lords and large landowners and demand for land reform continued.

High Prices and Inflation

In 1365 [1986-87], the tremendous high prices, galloping inflation, and vast shortages of essentials destroyed the security of workers, farmers and laborers. The level of income and wages of the majority of the oppressed people was by no means adjusted to the increasing prices. For this reason, laborers lived very difficult days, weeks and months in destitution, unemployment, hunger and homelessness.

In addition, the social plunderers supported by the regime engaged in plundering the incomes of the laborers and increasing their huge cash volume. Statistics on the concentration of more than 95 percent of the total cash flow in the hands of 3 percent of the population reflect this bitter, heart-rending reality.

Leaving the affairs of the people to the "people" continued in 1365 [1986-87] with leaving the affairs in various areas of the national economy, including industries, mines and agriculture, to the private sector. In order to free the hands of the private sector in education and strengthen the basis of class education, a bill entitled the "bill on the participation of the people in educational affairs" was ratified. The ratification of this bill legitimized the activity of the private sector in education, which had begun in recent years illegally and in violation of the Constitution.

Thus, while the children of the influential operators of the Islamic Republic studied in the best private schools, hundreds of thousands of children who needed an education were left outside the school doors or studied in two- and three-shift schools with few educational resources.

Terrorism, Strangulation and the Elimination of Freedom

In 1365 [1986-87], the terrorism, strangulation and suppression of the masses, and the persecution, arrest, torture and execution of opponents continued. In that year, the regime expanded the resources and the groundwork for government terrorism and the suppression of institutions. It responded to every voice of freedom and just opposition with handcuffs, torture and imprisonment.

In 1365 [1986-87], the regime organized new, bloody raids out of fear of the expansion of revolutionary and progressive activities among the masses of the people. They included raids on the Feda'iyān-e Khalq Organization of Iran (majority) and the arrest of more than 1,000 of its members and cadres.

At the same time, it is noteworthy that during the course of the exposure of the visit of MacFarlane and the heightening of the differences and conflicts within the ruling government, the wave of arrests, detainment and torture was even extended to the cohorts of Montazeri and their relatives. And the "suppression logic" of the tortures "supported by Islam" resulted in the appearance of Mehdi Hashemi and Mowlavi Nazer Mohammad Didgah [as published], the representative of Iranshahr, on television.

Hunger strikes and visits to the political prisoners protesting the trampling of the most basic human and judicial rights in prisons were highly important manifestations of the heroic resistance of the captive children of the people in 1365 [1986-87]. In the course of strikes, several groups of political prisoners were sent before the firing squads, but, finally, the regime was forced to retreat to some extent.

Foreign Policy

In 1365 [1986-87], in the area of foreign policy, in displaying its anti-communist character, the regime continued to establish close ties with imperialism and reactionaries. The exposure of the visit to Iran of MacFarlane, Reagan's former security council advisor--as one of the results of the fight of the various factions over power--exposed the secret dealings of the regime with U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism. This time, the masses of people perceived in another arena that the traitors to the anti-imperialist, popular goals of the revolution engage in any kind of treason to continue the war and the advancement of their expansionist and aggressive plans. The regime that speaks of anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggle, in practice, by resorting to secret diplomacy, prepares the way for revitalizing relations with U.S. imperialism. As was exposed, U.S. imperialism has not stopped and will not stop engaging in any effort in turn to regain its lost positions. The delivery of weapons to Iran has taken place precisely within this framework.

One of the consequences of the arms deal between Iran and U.S. imperialism mediated by Israel was the depositing of the profit of \$30 million for military goods in the bank accounts of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. Another element of the courting of the Islamic Republic with imperialism was the role of the regime as mediator in the delivery of weapons from the United States to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

In 1365 [1986-87], by organizing, arming and training Afghan counterrevolutionaries, the regime shamelessly continued to interfere in the internal affairs of free, independent, democratic Afghanistan and impeded any solution to the domestic problems of Afghanistan.

The Conflict Between Factions

In 1365 [1986-87], differences and conflicts between the factions inside the ruling regime continued to escalate to a point that they were manifested in the governing pyramid itself, including discrediting Montazeri.

In 1365 [1986-87], the class basis of the regime continued to become smaller and smaller, and new strata, understanding the nature of the reactionary rulers and traitors to the goals of the revolution, left them and were attracted to the people and opposition to the regime of the Islamic Republic. In the escalation of this trend, the exposure of the dealings of the regime with U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism in particular played an important role.

In evaluating the events in the country in 1365 [1986-87], reviewing the class tendency of the social forces, the ability and position of the regime, and the strong and weak points of the movement, one must properly emphasize that if in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] the movement fails to acquire a persistent leadership and revolutionary program, considering the socio-economic crisis of the regime, a fruitful year for the blossoming of the mass movement of the Iranian masses can be expected.

We are on the threshold of spring and the new year, with hands full of best wishes and the flowering of hope and desires. If we have picked the flowers of our hopes and wishes with realistic optimism and belligerent and unity-seeking determination from the flower garden of the people's movement, undoubtedly we will take a giant step towards victory.

10,000

CSO: 4640/112

ARABIC EDITORIALS SUPPORT LEBANESE HIZBALLAH

Support Declaration

Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "This Is Why We Support Hizballah"]

[Text] Important sources here pointed out that the way the Islamic government reacted to various incidents that sought to strike down Hizballah would show that it did not side with any Lebanese element against another. Such reactions conformed to the government's well-known position on the future of Lebanon, the destiny of its Islamic majority, and the subsequent destiny of the Islamic nation.

The sources said that there has been a policy of caution and patience towards repeated incidents at the town of Mashgharah where elements from Hizballah were struck by the Damascus-supported Syrian Nationalist Party. Such a stance does not differ in essence or motivation from the strong position taken by Iranian officials towards the al-Bastah massacre in West Beirut. This consistency of attitudes shows that the concerns of officials here transcend words and the support of one Lebanese element. They are more concerned with the general Islamic interest in Lebanon.

This recalls that Hojjatoleslam Mohtashemi, the current minister of interior and longtime holder of the Lebanese portfolio in the Islamic government, commented at length on Tehran radio on the significance of the current official position on fast-breaking developments in West Beirut. He pointed out that concern for the safety of Hizballah elements is prompted by the fact that they represent the Islamic Lebanese people who carries arms against Israeli greed in general, and more particularly represent those who were not swept by political maneuvering and planning for the current civil wars that greatly hurt the internal peace and security of Lebanon and from which there is beneficiary but Israel.

It should be noted that this concern is in line with the Islamic government's declared position that it is important not to disarm Palestinians wishing to use Lebanon as a base from which to continue their bloody struggle to liberate their land; not to open fire on elements of the Islamic movement no matter what their sect; and to intervene openly and seriously to end the engagements that aimed at liquidating the men of the Islamic unification movement in Tripoli.

Anti-Hizballah Activities

Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Mar 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Change The Bet"]

[Text] Recent regrettable incidents against elements of Hizballah in West Beirut may not have taken place except for a bet on certain international developments by all the parties that may be upset by the activity of this basic element of Lebanese resistance.

There are those who believe that terminating the activities of Hizballah and depleting its sources of power would tempt Israel to abandon plans for another invasion of Lebanon if it felt threatened because of the deep impact on the Lebanese arena of Iran-Iraq war developments in favor of Islamic forces.

Others find in American and western accusations that Hizballah undertakes kidnapping of foreigners and, more recently, in western support for any attempt to eradicate the activities of Hizballah, an invaluable opportunity to enter negotiations on the program of alleged political reform with Damascus and other traditional Islamic and Lebanese personalities. All of them hope to benefit from current world support for progress towards controlling and quieting down the Beirut situation. They believe that a prerequisite is to calm western fears of Hizballah and its activities.

They would do better to be more empirical and to keep in mind that the situation could flare up in Lebanon and several of its neighbors and turn out in favor of Hizballah and the Lebanese Islamic resistance if, for instance, the Islamic republic were successful in bringing a quick and decisive solution to the problem of war with Iraq. Today, everyone in Lebanon is aware that whether the American fleet sails nearer Lebanese shores, or not and whether Israel undertakes or scraps a planned invasion depend more on the outcome of the Iraq-Iran war than on current developments in Lebanon.

Syrian Involvement

Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Mar 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Where Do Syria's Interests Lie?"]

[Text] Relations with Syria are so important and so sensitive that we have, so far, been keen on protecting them.

We will remain alert and we will frustrate any attempt at disturbing these close relations which must continually improve.

The history of these relations shows important and successful milestones of coordination which benefited Syria domestically and internationally, and specifically in Lebanon.

One of these milestones of cooperation and rapprochement has been the aid which the Islamic republic never withheld for a second from the Islamic resistance active in Lebanon. This has greatly benefited Syria in protecting itself from American and Israeli threats originating in Lebanon.

Another milestone was the tremendous efforts by the Islamic republic to stop the continuing bloodshed in the camps. This is beginning to bear fruit in the success of current Syrian attempts to bring some aid and supplies to Palestinian refugees. These efforts reveal the great emphasis Tehran places on bringing a stop to the multiplicity of internal strife which serves the interests of Israel and its Lebanese pawns, especially those who seek to liquidate Islamic bases.

The Islamic republic has generally found Syria to be understanding and willing to cooperate in order to prevent wasting active Islamic energies in Lebanon and to defend them in regional and international forums. Perhaps the most recent statement which Mr Hafiz al-Asad made to a Kuwaiti newspaper in this regard was that the Islamic movement was the only Lebanese element that courageously opposed the Israeli invasion and its aftermath.

The Islamic republic, therefore, does not consider the Basta massacre of Hizballah members in West Beirut to have been initiated by an official Syrian order and demands that Damascus officials punish perpetrators among Syrian forces as proof that it has not abandoned its avowed positions.

Syria understands that these demands are also in its interests and that they make it possible for the Islamic government here to have the support of all the people for its support of Syria against the challenges it faces on several fronts.

12945/12859
CSO: 4604/25

BUDGET ITEMS FOR 1987-88 ELABORATED

London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Mar 87 p 2

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] The annual National Budget Bill for 1987-88 was discussed and studied sometime ago in an open session of the Majlis. In the beginning of the session, Dari Najaf-Abadi, the spokesman of the Planning and Budget Committee explained this bill and said: "The National Budget Bill of 1987-88, which has been referred to the principal committee, has been studied in 66 sessions with the presence of responsible officials and various experts and was approved with few changes." The single article of the annual budget of 1987-1988 was read by the spokesman of the Planning and Budget Committee.

The single article: The annual National Budget for 1987-1988 in regard to revenues and other sources of funds is over 7,368,301,754,000 rials and in regard to disbursements and other payments is over 7,368,301,754,000 rials as follows:

A. General government budget revenues and other sources of credit and disbursements and other payments are 3,913,059,760,000 rials and includes the following:

1. General revenue and other sources of credit in the amount of 3,614,088,541,000 rials. Disbursements and other payments from this allocation are 3,614,088,541,000 rials.

2. Special revenues of the ministries and government organizations are 298,971,219,000 rials and disbursements and payments are 298,971,291,000 rials.

B. Government firms and profit-making institutions connected to the government budget for revenues and other sources of credit is over 3,913,268,247,000 rials. Disbursements and other payments are over 3,913,268,247,000 rials. The government is authorized to collect the revenues and other credits in order to obtain the funds mentioned in the third part of this law and regulations of 1987-1988. The government must reimburse the expenses of ministries and government organizations, as well as contributions and other allocated government funds shown in the tables of Sections 4, 5 and 6 and the first attachment of this law to the extent of collecting revenues and other sources of credit in 1987-1988 and to guarantee and reimburse these funds pertaining to the provisions and notes of this law according to the allocated funds.

The collection of revenues and payments of the expenses of government corporations and profitmaking institutions connected to the government, except expenses for capital investments whose funds are provided from the general revenue (the funds for development projects) and fall under general regulations of the government financial and transaction regulations according to the charter of the associations and other regulations and provisions provided for the mentioned firms and profitmaking organizations is permissible. Increases or decreases in the approved budget figures for government corporations and profitable institutions connected to the government published in the tables of section 8 of this bill are subject to the provisions prescribed in note 41 of this law.

9815/12859

CSO: 4640/97

IRAN

MINISTER DETAILS GOODS ALLOWED TO UTILIZE FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Mar 87 p 11

[Interview with Minister of Industries Engineer Gholamreza Shafe'i by reporters on 7 March 1987; place not specified]

[Text] RESALAT reporter:

Yesterday (16/12/65 [7 March 1987], Saturday), Engineer Gholamreza Shafe'i, the minister of industries, participated in a press, radio and television conference and explained for reporters the foreign exchange allocation policies for 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], the goods allowed to utilize government foreign exchange, and the financial problems of the industrial units.

In the beginning of this interview, Mr Shafe'i said in regards to the foreign exchange rationing policies in 1366 [1987-88]: In regards to the foreign exchange rationing policies in 1366 [1987-88], considering the continuation of foreign exchange restrictions, we have to continue this rationing as before, even though it has its shortcomings and creates problems. At the same time, it has its advantages, too, and leads us to reform the production structure and also results in guiding better foreign exchange currency rationing policies.

He added: The units that do not utilize foreign exchange have no problems. Next year, as well, they will continue their work. However, we have divided the units that rely on foreign currency into three groups.

The first group of units that may utilize foreign exchange currency include those which produce necessary, beneficial and sensitive items for the country. We consider it our duty to allocate the currency from the sale of oil to such units. Of course, such units are allowed to make use of non-government, export currency as well.

The second group of units that use currency involve those to which no government foreign currency has been allocated, or if it has, the amount is negligible.

Third concerns goods that are neither given government currency nor allowed to utilize currency obtained from the export of other goods. Of course, these are allowed to utilize the currency from the export of their own goods.

Concerning the production of drugs and other necessary items of the country, the minister of industries said:

Unfortunately, the consumption of medicine has increased in our country, according to the statistics on medicine production in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] compared to 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978], by 219 percent. In 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] and 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] as well, we witnessed an increase in the consumption of medicine.

He added: Some goods produced by the Ministry of Industries have decreased and some have increased in the first 10 months of 1364 [1985-86], such as soap, by 2 percent; pills, by 7 percent; capsules, by 6.5 percent, and injections, by 13 percent. The statistics of the Ministry of Health indicate that 80 percent of the medicinal needs of the society are produced domestically; we only import about 20 percent.

Concerning the financial problems of the industrial units, Mr Shafe'i said: The next point concerns the financial difficulties which have occurred for the industrial units or the facilities that are necessary to be provided for them. For this purpose, the Ministry of Industries has acquired certain facilities from the supreme council of banks for the production sector, which include granting up to a maximum of 100 million rials in interest-free loans to units that may have problems paying salaries to workers, provided that the unit will be able to begin to repay the loan within 6 months.

Concerning the creation of industrial units, he said: The interesting point in regards to the agreements in principle is that, despite the currency situation of the country, 1,835 applications for the creation of industrial units have been made in the past 9 months, of which a large number require foreign currency and fewer do not. Investments in these units, including fixed and circulating investments, are about 350 billion rials.

Concerning research projects, Mr Shafe'i said: In the area of research projects, we have carried out a very intensive task in which 240 research projects have been projected, the research on which must be carried out within the next 3 years. Our standards state that the research nuclei of every industrial field must gather the results of their studies in order to eliminate their problems. When the kind of projects are announced, researchers will examine the projects and acquire research permits. We have projected that these projects will achieve results within the next three years.

One of the very important tasks underway is the creation of the investment company for the Western part of the country. This company will cover Western Azarbaijan, Kurdistan, and Ilam Provinces. The investors for this company will be the Shahid Foundation, the Foundation for the Oppressed, the Industries and Mines Bank, and the provincial bank. The projected capital for this company is 1.2 billion rials, and it will be centered in the city of Sanandaj. The primary goals of the company are to create employment for the people of that area and engage in development.

IRAN

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REPORTEDLY SHOWS TENFOLD INCREASE SINCE 85

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Mar 87 p 2

[Interview with Minister of Heavy Industries Engineer Nabavi by CENTRAL NEWS UNIT; date and place not specified]

[Text] Economic service. In the 7 months of 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] about \$10 million in foreign currency have been gained by the units of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, which indicates a tenfold increase compared to 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986].

In an interview with the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT, Engineer Nabavi announced the above statement and said: The value of the export contracts for non-oil goods was more than the figure mentioned, which includes mostly various vehicles and some die parts.

He added: The Ministry of Heavy Industries places more importance on parts that are manufactured domestically than the export of such items as vehicles, which is a partially-assembled industry, because all the increased value belongs to the country.

The minister of Heavy industries said: Every industrial unit under the control of the organization for the expansion and renovation of Iranian industries may utilize 80 percent of the currency obtained from the export of its produced goods. The remaining 20 percent will be collected in a special fund for other production units.

According to him, the countries that purchase Iranian industrial goods are mainly Eastern European countries, Turkey and some of the Western companies which have signed significant contracts with the production units of the country for the export of Iranian industrial goods.

10,000
CSO: 4640/114

2

IRAN

BRIEFS

NON-OIL EXPORTS--Mashhad, KEYHAN reporter. More than 2,200 tons of goods were exported from the Province of Khorasan. During Esfand [20 February-20 March] last year, more than 2,200 tons of goods and non-oil materials, valued at 4,800 million rials, were exported with 139 export certificates to 12 countries from the Province of Khorasan. According to our reporter, the institute of standards and industrial research of Khorasan announced: Following the export of goods and non-oil products from the Province of Khorasan, during the period 20 February-20 March last year, more than 2,200 tons of goods, including cumin, sheep and goat intestines, raw wool, raisins, pistachio nuts, and apples, at a total value of 4,800 billion rials, through 139 export certificates, were exported to England, France, West Germany, Dubai, Czechoslovakia, Singapore, Belgium, Italy, the United States, Austria, Spain and Yugoslavia. This amount of exported goods showed an increase of four times in weight and three times in value compared to a similar period in the previous year. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Mar 87 p 2] 10,000

CSO: 4640/114

FORMER MINISTER REVEALS FLAWS IN COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY

Islamabad HURMAT in Urdu 21 Feb-1 Mar 87 pp 3-16

[Interview with former foreign minister, Mian Arshad Hussain by HURMAT's Asif Bhalli: "Pakistan Does Exactly What America Directs It To Do"; Place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Pakistan's former foreign minister, Mian Arshad Hussain is considered to be an experienced foreign policy expert. Mian Sahib also possesses the honor of working with Quaid-e Azam. In a special interview with HURMAT, he makes vital revelations about the changes being made in the course of Pakistan's foreign policy from the time of its foundation to the present day.

[Question] What was the impact of the martial law governments established during various eras in our country in determining our foreign policy? In other words, what advantages and disadvantages did our foreign policy front encounter due to the establishment of nonrepresentative governments in our country?

[Answer] We were under the influence of America during the martial law administrations. Then, to counteract this situation, as I stated earlier, Jawaharlal Nehru had to extend his hand of cooperation toward the Soviet Union. That is to say, due to the policies of martial law governments, the relationship between the Soviet Union and India went on improving day by day. Whereas, the foundations of hostility between the Soviet Union and Pakistan continued to strengthen. Again, during Yahya Khan's reign, as a result of the treaty between the Soviet Union and India, and due to the manner in which the Soviet Union helped India during the war against Pakistan, the country got divided into two parts. Though there are many more factors involved in Pakistan's division, nevertheless the failures of our foreign policy played the major role. It was the foreign policy of our martial law administrations alone, which, in the 1971 war, deprived Pakistan of moral support from the international community. During Ayub Khan's reign, when Kennedy ruled America, it was the failure of the foreign policy of the Ayub government that America, while putting Pakistan in its pocket, also improved its relations with India. Despite the fact that we had signed a military treaty with America, Kennedy did not demonstrate much interest in the affairs and interests of Pakistan.

The greatest drawback in military governments is that they lack the conception of opposition. The assemblies are nonexistent. Foreign policy cannot be discussed. The representatives of the nation are not at all consulted when foreign policy is prepared. Thus, as one person alone, as he does in other affairs of the country, also shapes foreign policy as he wishes and desires, considering only his own interest while so doing. A military ruler manages foreign affairs while keeping in mind his own power. While outlining foreign policy, he neither bears in mind the country's interest, nor does he function with such institutions through which he could take into consideration the national yearnings. Thus, whatever foreign policy is adopted, it always jeopardizes the country's interest. One cannot even conceive that the policies formulated by any one person can be beneficial to the country. I have already given you one such example with reference to the fall of East Pakistan. Again, due to the martial law regimes, the Kashmir issue, which, with reference to Pakistan's integrity, bears utmost significance, became totally dead. Moreover, our further failure was that we did not gain much success in acquiring America's total support. On the other hand, however, we did make the Soviet Union our foremost enemy.

[Question] Would the situation have been different, if we had elected governments in our country?

[Answer] Yes, it was possible that we could have reviewed our pact policy with America, and in view of our national interests and in the light of the changed circumstances, we could have abrogated those treaties. During the eras of the military regimes, we were always despised internationally. Especially, due to our unconditional relationship with America, it was thought that as Pakistan maintained no independent foreign policy, it would do exactly what America would direct her to do.

[Question] If an impartial analysis were to be conducted regarding our foreign policy during the 9-year rule of General Ziaul Haq, in your opinion, what gains did Pakistan secure during this entire period, and on the foreign front, where did we meet with failures?

[Answer] First of all, I shall talk with reference to the Kashmir issue. The first point is that under the Shimla agreement signed during the deceased Bhutto's reign, the Kashmir issue cannot be raised on any international platform. If, at any time, the Pakistan Government were to mention this issue, India would immediately launch a protest against it as a violation of the Shimla agreement. The martial law administration of General Zia has been mostly supportive of the Shimla agreement, and it has been preserved. In the presence of the Shimla agreement, therefore, our greatest international issue has been brought to an end. The second important issue that we have faced during this period is the Afghanistan crisis. Obviously, this issue has become a major threat to Pakistan's integrity. Now, with reference to this issue, the Zia government has asked for American aid. We have regained our military aid that was suspended during the Johnson era. Our economic aid has also been increased. Consequently, the opposition of the Communist bloc, already our enemy, has become more intense. However, during this period, our relations with the Muslim countries have further improved. We have also been receiving more economic aid from them.

[Question] How do you view the nature of Pakistan's relations with India during this period?

[Answer] It has been the policy of the Zia regime that we should befriend India, and that relations between the two countries should improve. The situation has been such that once we were being offered proposals by India that a no-war pact should be signed with them, trade and cultural relations should be established, but we insisted that first the Kashmir issue be resolved, then we could think of improving relations. Now, when we extend our hand of friendship toward them without imposing any restrictions in that regard, they are still not prepared to accept our friendship. In other words, despite the fact that we have forsaken all our demands, India is unwilling to befriend us.

[Question] You have mentioned the Shimla treaty in your conversation. What is your professional opinion of this agreement? How far is it in harmony with the interests of Pakistan, or how much does it negate our interests? What would be our advantages and disadvantages if we uphold this agreement?

[Answer] At the time of the Shimla agreement, the deceased Bhutto confronted three vital issues: first was the return of the prisoners of war; second was the repossession of those areas that had come under the control of India; and third was the Kashmir issue. In addition to these one could also consider the future of Indo-Pakistan relations. India did, however, solve the issue of the war prisoners, and the issue of the return of our occupied territories was also resolved. The third issue was Kashmir. Now, here I would have to compare the Tashkent and Shimla agreements. At the time of the Tashkent treaty also, we were faced with the issues of the exchange of the prisoners and the return of the occupied regions. Along with those, there was also the Kashmir issue. In both the Tashkent and Shimla agreements, the issues of the release of prisoners and the return of occupied territories were resolved in almost the same manner. It was decided at Tashkent that we should return to India its regions that we had occupied, and that our territories held by India should be returned to us. In the Tashkent treaty, the significance of the cease-fire line was taken into consideration, and the decision was made accordingly. However, the cease-fire line was not recognized in the Shimla agreement. India took the stand that a new line of control would be established and its troops would remain where they already were. As far as the Kashmir issue is concerned, that also came to an end after Bhutto recognized the new line of control. As a result of this pact, our right of presenting this issue before the Security Council also ended. By joining in the Shimla agreement, Pakistan rendered ineffective even the resolutions of the United Nations that the issue of Kashmir should be resolved through a referendum in that country. If we now continue under the Shimla agreement, we cannot possibly force the United Nations to press India to act upon those resolutions. The Shimla agreement also deprived us of the moral support we could have attained on the international level on this issue. On one hand, the Shimla agreement terminated the cease-fire line, while on the other hand, it practically terminated the Kashmir issue. Therefore, if we examine it with reference to the interests of Pakistan, the Shimla agreement has inflicted a permanent and irremediable loss on Pakistan. The Kashmir dispute was

recognized in the Tashkent treaty, whereas, in the Shimla agreement, the very existence of this issue was negated.

[Question] What is your analysis with reference to our administration's stand on the Afghanistan issue, our policy for the past 7 years, and the shortcomings and mistakes we have made with regard to this matter?

[Answer] In my opinion, with reference to the Afghanistan issue, if we had not taken some steps, we would have faced a better situation. For example, the issue of the Afghan refugees could have been stopped from coming into existence. We should have closed our borders. The flow of the Afghan refugees into Pakistan, has neither strengthened Pakistan, nor has it benefited the struggle for the freedom of Afghanistan. If these very people who have migrated to Pakistan had participated with the freedom fighters in Afghanistan, they could have played an effective role in the freedom of Afghanistan. The war that is being fought even now is taking place within Afghanistan's borders. What, then, are these people, who, in every way, are skilled and capable of fighting in a war, doing here in Pakistan? As a result of this situation, if, God forbid, Pakistan, too, gets involved in this war, will not that be a prelude to an immense danger for our territorial integrity?

[Question] Some circles believe that the Afghan refugees are not only fighting a war of freedom for Afghanistan, rather, they are fighting for the defense of Pakistan also. What would you say in this regard.

[Answer] I do not understand how they are fighting for the defense of Pakistan. I strongly feel that we have acquired an extremely grave danger by supporting the Afghan freedom fighters.

[Question] In your view, What strategy should be adopted by Pakistan to make South Asia a region of peace, and especially to promote friendly relations with India?

[Answer] It depends largely on India whether or not peace will be maintained in this region. There would be peace if it so desires, but there would be no peace, if it does not like it, because India is the greatest power in South Asia. Therefore, India's policies and thinking alone would play a major role in whatever happens here.

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GRANTING EXCESSIVE FREEDOM TO FOREIGN DIPLOMATS CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 6 Mar 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Negation of Diplomatic Decorum"]

[Text] The Jamaat-e Islami's parliamentary secretary in the National Assembly, Liaqat Baluch, while expressing his views on a motion of postponement, said that diplomatic etiquette granted absolutely no permission to ambassadors to issue statements against the country to which they were accredited. However, due to the weakness of the administration, the ambassadors of the Soviet Union and the United States and the charge d'affaires of Afghanistan occasionally violate diplomatic decorum by issuing anti-Pakistan statements.

With regard to the cautious expression of opinion by Liaqat Baluch concerning the activities of ambassadors designated to Pakistan, the situation is much more worrisome and needs to be controlled. The matter is not only limited to the issuance of statements and violation and diplomatic courtesies, rather the ambassadors of certain countries and other members of the diplomatic corps are totally busy in becoming the warps and woofs of an organized conspiracy against Pakistan. God knows on the basis of what reasons the administration is ignoring the situation. Recently, with reference to Pakistan's noted scientist, Dr Abdul Qadir, a heap of lies fabricated concerning Pakistan's nuclear preparations was not an instantaneous issue. Instead, it was a vital link of a well-thought-out and time-consuming plan. Just a few days before this alleged interview became public, U.S. Ambassador Dean R Hinton was very confidently stating that Pakistan is developing a nuclear weapon, and that therefore, American aid would be suspended. On the basis of what information was he expressing this belief? The Indian journalist, Kuldip Nair, through the help of a Pakistani journalist, had already met with Dr Abdul Qadir before the American ambassador issued this statement. The Pakistani journalist must definitely have known how Kuldip Nair would present this meeting. On the other hand, foreign ambassadors have been meeting with this Pakistani journalist. The newspaper with which this journalist is associated, in its editorial, lauds Dr Qadir Khan's courage in disclosing something that the Pakistani Government has been hiding from the people for a long time. If we ponder a little, the links of the chain keep joining, and the picture gets completed. It is not difficult to comprehend why the American ambassador had such a confident tone. Now the Indian prime minister too, is also saying that a detailed report about Pakistan's nuclear preparations should be outlined.

The American rulers are threatening to suspend aid. The Indian lobby in America is staging demonstrations of protest against the aid being granted to Pakistan. As far as the Indian ambassador and his embassy staff are concerned, they enjoy in Pakistan the maximum freedom of going anywhere they desire and meeting with anyone they want. Recently, there have been continuous reports that the Indian diplomats are engaged in mysterious activities inside Sind. Everyone is also aware of the fact as to how very active the separatists, and particularly the Indian stooges, are in Sind. G M Sayyed, for a considerable period of time, has been openly preaching that a "Sindu Desh" should be formulated with India's help, and that those who come to Sind from India should be expelled and those who leave for India from Sind should be brought back and rehabilitated there. The Indian diplomats are meeting and consulting with the supporters of the Sindu Desh in this highly sensitive region. The Afghan charge d'affaires, while residing in our own country, with reference to the Karachi incident, clearly threatens that whatever happened in Karachi was merely an example, and that the real film is still to be shown. In other words, he himself has confessed that the riots of Karachi were related to Afghanistan itself. With the cooperation of such diplomats and their helpers existing in this land, subversive elements are setting fire to the entire country. They have gained so much courage now that they do not even hesitate to attack the Peshawar airport with rockets. On one hand, the Geneva talks are underway to resolve the Afghan issue and for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from this brotherly Muslim state, while, on the other hand, the Soviet ambassador, to kill the spirit of this dialogue, says that Pakistan is not seriously considering the Soviet proposal to resolve the Afghan issue. Is that not a clear violation of diplomatic etiquette?

The question that arises here is whether Pakistanis, too, enjoy the same open freedom overseas that is being granted to foreign diplomats and journalists in Pakistan. It is definitely not so. Why then is only our government so considerate. Leave aside mentioning the other countries, in the neighboring country of India, Pakistani diplomats live under a strict watch. Recently, there were also reports of attacks on them. If Pakistani journalists go there, leave aside special favors, the C.I.D. follows them all the time. In our country, however, Indian journalists receive a warm welcome. Great personalities eager to demonstrate humility and sociability chat with them for hours. Their valuable statements are granted special importance. The administration should review this attitude. Because, in this way, its democracy would lose recognition, indeed the hands of those conspiring against the country would be strengthened. Pakistan's integrity would face more dangers. It is better, therefore, to restrict foreign diplomats to their appointed circle.

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INTERIOR MINISTER CRITICIZED OVER SOHRAB GOTH REMARKS

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 20 Jan 87 p 2

[Editorial: "Operation Cleanup and Ministry of Interior"]

[Text] Federal Minister of Interior Aslam Khattak said in an interview that he had no knowledge that Operation Cleanup was to be carried out in Sohrab Goth, nor did he know anything about the divulgence of information in this connection. What is surprising is that the residents of Sohrab Goth, the dealers in Kalashnikovs and the drug mafia had advance information, and they had already removed their goods and disappeared from the scene. If there was anyone who did not know about the operation, it was the federal minister of interior, who has some dozen intelligence agencies active all over the country to keep him informed. It is a fact that at the time of the operation, it was claimed that even the local authorities and the police were informed of it only at the last minute. But all these claims proved to be baseless and false, as it has been ascertained that the residents of the area knew about the operation at least a day in advance, and they had ample time to remove the illegal arms and drugs to secure places. The army was called in to help in the operation, and pictures published in the newspapers show that machine guns were installed on the streets and the area was besieged. All this before the very eyes of both the known and hidden agencies of the Ministry of Interior. Despite all this, the Interior Ministry still claims that it had no prior knowledge of the operation. Together with various examples from the past, this concrete example makes clear one major reason for the difficulties facing Pakistan, and that is the failure, incapability and immaturity of the intelligence agencies, which are the real reason for the inability to predict future events. International intelligence agencies have from time to time warned the Pakistani Government about the infiltration of foreign subversive elements into the country. Despite all this, no effort seems to have been directed to pinpoint and identify the foreign agents. To say the least, the responsibility for such action lies on the shoulders of the federal ministry of interior and has no connection with the affairs of any province. The hijacking of a jumbo jet belonging to Pan American Airlines at the Karachi international airport last September exposed the weakness of domestic intelligence agencies. After the assassination of an Iraqi diplomat in Karachi and a Soviet diplomat in Islamabad, other incidents followed one after another. Our

intelligence agencies connected with the federal Ministry of Interior were apparently helpless and dumb. This negligence and incapability on the one hand created innumerable problems within the country and were responsible for devastation, destruction and bloodshed; on the other hand, Pakistan had to face ignominy and criticism abroad. The lukewarm nature of the relations with India and the psychological war with that country all began with the death of Indian passengers during the hijacking of the Pan-American plane. Foreign groups were involved in the hijacking episode. Prior to this the "Hammer group" caused havoc, and dozens of citizens were mercilessly murdered. This group also allegedly had the backing of foreigners. What is most surprising is how all this came about without the knowledge of the federal Ministry of Interior. Aslam Khattak said the other day that thousands of foreigners had obtained Pakistani identity cards. This statement does not in any way speak well about his ministry. Perhaps here too his stand will be that he could not obtain advance information that people were getting forged documents. Nor is it known whether the federal Ministry of Interior had any knowledge about the shocking and repulsive statements made against Pakistan on the occasion of the 84th anniversary of G.M. Syed's birth. Sindhudesh flags were raised on that occasion and the Sindhudesh anthem was sung. The youth were instigated to carry arms for achieving independence. Punjabis were asked to leave Sind as it might be their last opportunity. The federal minister of interior most certainly must have known about these incidents from newspaper reports, although it is useless to expect the intelligence agencies of his ministry to be present to make a report, because if the police could not arrest G.M. Syed, how could they remain there to assess the situation. Such circumstances are creating a sense of uncertainty and mistrust in the mind of the common man. Each department in the government must constantly remind the people of its existence, and this is only possible when government officials give due consideration to the fulfillment of their official duties, accept their responsibility to serve their country and nation by protecting the state at such a critical time, bring the situation under control by putting an end to the disorder and confusion prevailing in the country, and ensure national safety and security by bringing about fraternity, unity and integrity.

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GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH RIOTS, SUBVERSION QUESTIONED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 20 Jan 87 p 3

[Editorial: "What Is the Government Doing About It?"]

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo, after touring the riot-affected areas in Karachi and Hyderabad, expressed the view that the way the disturbances took place in the two cities indicates that some foreign, anti-Pakistani elements are trying to create difficulties for the government, and that no genuine Pakistani would indulge in such subversive activities. Prime Minister Junejo, referring to the heinous killing of Syed Masum Ali and his two daughters, said that a well-organized group is involved in subversive activities. Four people arrested a few days ago for violating curfew regulations have acknowledged that they received training in a foreign country on how to create disturbances and subversive activities in cities. The prime minister said that he was determined to expose those involved in terrorist and subversive activities and that the government would do all in its power to bring to book those actually responsible for these incidents.

In view of the well-organized disturbances occurring all over the country, and especially in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi, there is no doubt that this is the work of people well trained in disruption, whether they have come from outside the country or whether they have been receiving help from inside the country. In the Northwestern Frontier Province, terrorist incidents have been occurring for some time now. These incidents have only one object in view, and that is to force Pakistan to give up its principled stand on the Afghanistan issue and stop supporting the Afghan mujahidin, who are preventing the Red onslaught from reaching the borders of Pakistan. There is no other way to explain the everyday occurrence of bombing incidents in Frontier Province. There is no language issue in the province, no provincial issue, and for that matter there is no insurgency against the government with which the bombing incidents could be linked. Explosions take place at random in a bazaar, a bus or some other public place, killing innocent people. Local people would never kill their own brethren mercilessly and in such a cowardly manner. Foreign agents calling themselves Pakistanis have been openly threatening that if Pakistan does not stop supporting the Mujahidin, then Afghanistan will not be showering flowers and that the Red tide will finally

overtake Pakistan. These people care little about their Pakistani brothers that are being killed; they are busy commending the activities of Khad agents. Many Khad agents have even been arrested in Frontier Province. Similarly, the Pishin police arrested a trained Afghan agent in Baluchistan the other day and recovered a bomb from a briefcase in his possession. This subversive agent, while confessing his crime, said that he was sent on a mission to destroy an important public building in Quetta. This M.Sc. graduate had received regular training in terrorism. After the Sohrab Goth incident that took place in Karachi on 31 October at a time of tension in the city, one night there was a sudden explosion in Liaquatabad followed by rioting and disturbances. On the night of 17-18 January a powerful explosion occurred at 4 am in Landhi, injuring three people. Whenever an incident occurs in this city, whether it is on a bus, during a procession, a bomb explosion, or the administration taking action against drug traffickers, there is bloodshed all over the city. This shows that a particular group is waiting for an opportunity to create problems involving safety and security and to strengthen the feeling among the people that they are no longer secure and that democracy has failed in Pakistan.

Previously, there were reports that commandos from a neighboring country had been arrested and that they had been trained in dacoity and banditry. A newspaper quoting well-informed sources reported the other day that evidence has been found of Indian subversive agents being involved in creating wide-ranging disturbances in Sind, and in particular, the bloody riots in Karachi. There is a possibility that some Indian diplomats, too, may be involved in these incidents. It is on the basis of eyewitness accounts received by the government that the prime minister and the chief minister of Sind have spoken of a hidden hand behind the Karachi disturbances. According to these reports, some international investigating authorities have also reported the entry of well-trained subversive elements into Pakistan and Sind, and the names and photographs of some of them have been given to the Sind government. Some language experts have also claimed that the poisonous, instigating pamphlets that are being distributed in affected areas in Sind were not written by Pakistanis.

All these claims are correct, but the basic question about what the government is doing and what it can do remains unanswered. When will the time come when the elements the prime minister says are involved in these terrorist, subversive activities will be exposed? Can the government excuse itself simply by stating that subversive elements have come from across the border, and is not this an acknowledgment of helplessness? The people are not concerned as to where the subversive agents have come from. Furthermore, from the time of the massacre of the "Hammer group" until the current disturbances and riots, announcements have been made about the arrest of a number of subversive elements and foreign agents, but no one knows what punishment has been meted out to them and what has become of them. It is quite certain that a foreign country was behind the activities of the "Hammer group," which was sent back at the request of its government. What about the other subversive groups: are they

too being sent back at the request and suggestion of "friendly countries"? Special tribunals should be set up to deal with the subversive groups and terrorists, and these tribunals should accomplish their tasks as soon as possible, according to the dictates of the law, and punish the criminals. Otherwise, the criminals, who do not deserve any concessions, will benefit from the prolonged and complex judicial system. Even the most advanced countries implement such procedures.

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CONTINUATION OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM URGED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 10 Mar 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Firm Resolve"]

[Text] Whenever the issue of aid to Pakistan is presented to the U.S. Congress, the campaign to create doubts and suspicions about Pakistan's nuclear program suddenly gains momentum. The situation is still the same nowadays. All the anti-Pakistan elements are bent on making everyone believe that Pakistan's nuclear program is not for peaceful purposes. Rather, under this pretence, it is manufacturing a bomb or has already produced one, and that if this Pakistani or Islamic bomb is made, the security of the entire region would be in danger. Pakistan, soon after developing a bomb, would definitely strike at some country with it and destroy the entire world; or else, it is certain that it would continue manufacturing bombs and selling them to the Arab countries who would either utilize them against America's adopted child, Israel, or else drop them directly on American itself. Pakistan, therefore, should be prevented from advancing even an inch in the field of atomic technology. The most surprising factor is that the countries that have already become nuclear powers themselves are the major leaders in creating obstacles in this path. The question is whether the countries that already possess atomic or hydrogen bombs, use them occasionally against someone. If that is not the case, then what difference would the addition of another member in the atomic club make? Pakistan has continuously stated that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only, whereas many countries have not even given any such assurances.

America has always been threatening Pakistan indirectly concerning its nuclear program. Recently, U.S. Ambassador Dean R Hinton openly said that Pakistan's nuclear program was not for peaceful purposes. In the meantime, Dr Abdul Qadir's imaginary interview also came into the limelight. Under such circumstances, therefore, it was inevitable for the nation to be alarmed. Recently, therefore, a few members of the National Assembly introduced motions for the postponement of the general talks. However, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Nurani, has made clear in the nick of time that no power in the world can stop Pakistan from proceeding with its peaceful atomic program. Pakistan will even make sacrifices to continue with its nuclear program. Whether it be American aid or something else, no bargain would be accepted with regard to national independence. Zain Nurani said that no unilateral decision would be accepted regarding some agreement about nuclear

nonproliferation. Also, Pakistan would not accept any preferential treatment. Instead, it would prefer to relinquish foreign aid.

Zain Nurani has refuted the report that America has threatened Pakistan that it would suspend further aid if Pakistan continues with its nuclear program. What the U.S. ambassador said recently in Karachi is, nonetheless, on record, and it was an outright threat. We feel that any country's ambassador is his government's representative and spokesman, and in such significant matters, he does not possess any personal opinion. Besides his remarks, the warning of the American rulers has also surfaced through various other sources. Dean Hinton, in his speech, once again had repeated the demand of his government that Pakistan unilaterally sign the nuclear ban treaty. This demand also is certainly discriminatory treatment against Pakistan by the United States, since it has never made such a demand on either India or Israel. On the other hand, Pakistan's stand is absolutely correct and justifiable that it can sign such a treaty with India only. It is a strange fact, however, that America has imposed no restrictions on India, which carried out an atomic explosion in 1974 and in 1986 openly announced that it could at any time and at any level enrich uranium. America does provide aid to India without any condition. Recently, U.S. President Reagan himself proposed \$143.27 million in aid for India for fiscal year 1988. It is India alone that complains about Pakistan's nuclear program. Through Pakistan has repeatedly proposed to India that it can, under a mutual agreement, inspect Pakistan's nuclear program whenever it wishes, so that it can rest assured that Pakistan is not making an atomic bomb. Likewise, India, too, should offer its nuclear installations for inspection by Pakistan. India, however, is not at all prepared for that; although it has already carried out an atomic explosion. Nor are its nuclear capabilities hidden from anyone. If India has any doubts about Pakistan, it should remove them. India, however, dislikes this very idea. Its policy is to launch propaganda against Pakistan by accusing it in every matter. If both countries agree to inspect each others' nuclear installations, then India's propaganda will lose its credibility, and its real objective would die. The issue is not only limited to the inspection of the nuclear installations by both sides, rather Pakistan has even demanded that the entire region be declared a nuclear-free zone. India, however, does not agree to that either, which means that India wishes to be the sole nuclear power of this region. Otherwise, why is it that India does not sign the International Nonproliferation Treaty. America's attitude, however, is more mysterious than that of India in that it continues putting pressure only on Pakistan.

Right now the entire world is busy in an effort to somehow acquire a substitute for [conventional] energy, so that when the treasures of oil are consumed, everything does not come to a halt. Pakistan is neither a wealthy state, nor does it possess oil deposits. Therefore, it is much more in need of developing its nuclear technology to obtain energy. The advanced countries, however, cannot at all bear to see any developing country, leave aside Pakistan, becoming self-sufficient in energy, because the fountainheads of their sources of wealth and power would come to a naught, and their supremacy over the world would be jeopardized. We offer 100-percent support to the government's stand that the atomic program should be kept active regardless of any pressure whatsoever. American aid means nothing. It was suspended once before, also.

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